

# **TDA Junior School Newsletter**

## **September 2017**

*Welcome to the Autumn term everyone!*

Hope you all had a lovely summer holiday. I would especially like to welcome our new children that have joined us this term. Everyone has settled in and I have already seen good work taking place. Keep it up! We have lots of exciting learning, events and visits taking place in the coming weeks. More details will follow. I would also like to give a warm welcome to our new staff, please take the time to say hello when you see them. Congratulations to Ms. Major who got married during the summer holidays and is now Mrs. Stocking.

Miss Gower's has taken up her new role of Deputy Junior Leader and will be taking on the responsibility for SEND. Miss Gowers will be available on both the Parents evenings to speak to any parents who have concerns about SEN. Details of appointments will be sent out later.

The school gates open at 8.40 a.m. it is not necessary for children to arrive before this time. All staff are busy preparing for the start of the school day. The doors open at 8.50 a.m. where you can see a member of staff and make an appointment with them if necessary. Any children arriving on their own before the gates open will be put into the Breakfast Club and you will be charged.

### **Parents Evenings**



Parents Evenings are taking place on Wednesday 18th October and Thursday 19th October. These are important opportunities to share your child's progress and discuss how we can work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for your child. A letter with more details will be sent out at a later date.

### **Yr.6 Residential Visit to Kingswood**

Can I remind you that the second payment of £ 55.00 is due by 15<sup>th</sup> September. Please make sure that this instalment is paid on time. Thank you.



### **Yr.6 Parents Meeting**

We are holding a meeting for all the parents/carers of our Yr.6 children on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 5.00 p.m. in the Junior Hall. This is an important meeting to discuss the curriculum and expectations of our Yr.6 children. It is an important year for them as they will be taking SAT's during the Summer term and getting prepared for the transition to the main Academy. It will also be an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you may have. Our Yr.6 teachers and Yr.5/6 Phase Leader will be present at this meeting.

## Breakfast and After School Club

Anyone who wishes to book their children into these clubs will need to complete the relevant booking forms available from the school office. The After School Club finishes at 5.15 p.m. please make sure that your children are collected by this time thank you.

## Attendance

Full attendance maximises learning opportunities and parents/carers have a critical role in promoting good attitudes in attendance. We ask for support from parents/carers to ensure that their children are present at every opportunity, arrive on time and to avoid allowing children to stay at home unnecessarily, or taking them out of school without authorisation. We ask that you make routine medical and other appointments out of school time, where possible. Evidence shows that children who attend school regularly make better progress both academically and socially.

We monitor pupil's attendance closely and will follow up unexplained absence with parents/carers, by text, telephone or by letter. Where a pupil's attendance record reaches a concerning level, we will contact you and invite you to come into school to discuss it.

## Reporting an Absence

What to do if your child is ill:



If your child is too ill to attend school, parents/carers should contact school as soon as possible by telephone on 01733 426060 press 1 for the Junior School.

Please give your child's name, class, and the reason for the absence.

We ask that you contact us each day that your child is absent.

## Payments to School

Payments for school dinners, trips, music lessons, etc., can be made online via ParentPay which is our preferred method of payment. It also saves you waiting at the school office and gives you the ability to monitor your child's expenditure all within ParentPay.



To set up this service, **you will need an activation letter** to access your account. For further information and to register for ParentPay, please contact the Finance Team at the following e-mail address:

[financeteam@thomasdeaconacademy.com](mailto:financeteam@thomasdeaconacademy.com)

Once you have activated your account, you will be able to make payments securely online at any time, as well as monitor the history of your payments and view the balance on your child's account. **Please note** if you do send money to school it must be the correct amount as we do not give change. Please put the money in a sealed envelope clearly marked with your child's full name on, the amount and what it is for. As you will appreciate the Juniors is now full with 360 children! Some children have very similar names which is why it is important that your child's full name is written on the envelope.

Please note that the Academy has taken the decision that we will no longer be accepting cheque payments when we re-open after the Autumn half-term break, i.e. from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 onwards.

Please could we request that you ensure alternative methods are used to make payment to the Academy from that date moving forwards (i.e. by using cash or ParentPay). We regret any inconvenience that this decision may cause.

### **Reception Office**

From this term there will be no staff in the reception office after 4.15 p.m. Any parent who needs to contact the After School Club can do so by telephoning their direct number which is:

**07540412347**

### **Dates for your Diary:**

Yr.6 Parents Meeting	12 <sup>th</sup> September
Yr.6 Swimming Lessons commence	13 <sup>th</sup> September
Parents Evening	18 <sup>th</sup> October
Parents Evening	19 <sup>th</sup> October
Half Term	23 <sup>rd</sup> October – 27 <sup>th</sup> October
School Photographs	16 <sup>th</sup> November

**Information regarding each of these events will be sent out later in the term.**

Lucy Burks,  
TDA Junior Leader.