

# HOLY TRINITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## PARENTS NEWSLETTER

### SEPTEMBER 2018

#### **EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER**

**12 September-** Paired Reading Meeting and curriculum meeting for parents of P2,P3 and P4 - 9.15

**13<sup>th</sup> September-** P5, P6 and P7 Curriculum Meeting 1.30

**18<sup>th</sup> September-** P1 Curriculum Meeting 9.15

**24<sup>th</sup> September-** P7 Parent Meetings

#### **WELCOME BACK**

The Principal and staff would like to take this opportunity to welcome back the children and parents after the Summer break. The children all look fantastic and ready for the school year ahead.

#### **CURRICULUM MEETINGS**

Your child's curriculum meeting will take place during the month of September. It is very important that you make very effort to attend as you will be given important information about the school and the curriculum which your child will be following this year. The Principal will address the meeting and then teachers will escort parents to the classrooms to discuss what they are planning to do this year. The meeting will take approximately 30 minutes.

#### **AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Staff are currently planning activities which will be sent out as a request form over the coming weeks. Children can select the activities they wish to join. As lots of activities have to be limited due to health and safety we encourage children to stick at the activity which they choose as they are stopping another child gaining a place if they don't attend every week.

#### **COUNSELLOR**

This year we will continue to offer a counselling service if your child is experiencing any difficulties. If your child is lacking in self confidence, if they have experienced bereavement, family separation, if they have anger management difficulties, have difficulty making friends etc your child may benefit from speaking to the counsellor. If you would like your

child to see the school counsellor please contact Mrs Boyd and she will arrange this for you.

#### **School Dinners**

If you think your child maybe entitled to a school meal please request a School Meals Form from the Office. Policy has now changed and if you receive Family credit you will be entitled to free dinners. Our dinners are excellent and both healthy and nourishing. Dinners cost £2.60 daily.

Our school budget is allocated on the percentage of children entitled to free school meals. If your child is entitled but does not take them can I urge you to please apply for them anyway as they make a huge difference to our budget



#### **Packed Lunch**

Your child may choose to bring a packed lunch. In order to ensure a healthy snack **NO** sweets, crisps, chocolates, fizzy drinks or nuts should be put in lunches.

Peanuts are not allowed as we have a number of children with anaphylaxis which could prove fatal if they come in contact with nuts.

#### **2018-2019**

I am confident that with the partnership we have with you as parents, 2018-2019 will be a very successful year. Management and staff will provide educational, spiritual and pastoral care to your child in a supportive and nurturing environment. Our staff have high expectations and will push your children to achieve their full potential. They will continue to provide after school clubs and develop your child creatively and physically through sport. **Why not look at our website to see what our focus areas will be this year**

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### SEPTEMBER 2018

#### School Times

##### **Starting times**

School will start promptly for all children at 9.00.

P1- children will be collected from P1 yard at 8.50.

P2 children should be brought to their classroom from 8.50. Parents are asked to remain in the yard with their child until this time.

P3-P7 children will be collected from the yards at 9.00.

##### **Finishing times**

Initially P1 children will finish at 12.15. From 1<sup>st</sup> October they should be collected from their classrooms at 2.00.

P2 children will be collected at 2.00

Initially P3 will finish at 2.00. From 1<sup>st</sup> October they will finish at 2.45. They should be collected from the KS1 yard.

P4-P7 children finish at 2.45.

##### **School finishes for all children at**

**1.45 every Monday.**

**Parents are asked to use the two parent car parks and not park on the double yellow lines or block the turning circle.**

##### **Parents Please Note**

School does not officially start for any child until 9.00. If a parent chooses they can bring their child into school at 9.00 where they will be collected by the class teacher. In order to accommodate parents, we do permit parents to bring their child into school from 8.45 onwards. **It is the parent's decision whether they stay with their child in the playground until 9.00 or leave them in the playground where there are members of staff on duty.**

We are aware that there are open gates in the yards to allow children to come into school and parents to exit. We cannot close the gates as they need to be open in case of an emergency and we have to evacuate the yard. Children are regularly reminded that they are

not permitted to leave the yard and footballs are not permitted in the KS1 yard when the gates are open to prevent the ball going into traffic. Gates are closed at 9.10 and are not reopened again until children are being collected. **If you are concerned about your child, you are most welcome to remain with your child in the playground until the class teacher comes to collect him/her at 9.00.**

#### REGISTRATION

School begins at 9am for all pupils. It is important that your child is present from this time. Children who arrive into school fifteen minutes after the starting time will be marked absent for the entire morning session as the school day is divided into morning and afternoon sessions for registration purposes.

Children who arrive in late due to medical appointments, etc (accompanied by a parental letter) will be registered accordingly – not marked absent.

If you are aware that your child will be late/absent due to medical/dental appointments, etc please send in a note to your class teacher in advance.

Parents are asked to make appointments after school so your child does not miss out on lessons. If you do need to remove your child from school early you must contact the Principal or Vice Principal.

**Children whose attendance falls below 85% will automatically be referred to the Education Welfare Officer.**

Parents who wish for their child to attend a Grammar school next year must apply to a Grammar school before 2.00 on the 21st September
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## PARENTS NEWSLETTER

### SEPTEMBER 2018

#### **P1- P2 AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

The After School Club for children in P1-P2 will begin in October. The club will only be available to those pupils who have a brother or sister in P3-P7. Parents will be issued with a letter at the end of September and it will be issued on a first come basis. Pupils who do not get into the club, their names will be placed on a waiting list. Pupils whose attendance at the club is sporadic or who do not come to the club for a two week period will lose their place and it will be given to a child on the waiting list. We apologise in advance as we are aware that the need will exceed the places but we must ensure the safety of the children.

#### **INFORMATION UPDATE SHEET**

Due to new Data Protection Regulations which came into effect from May 2018 we now need to obtain your consent to hold you and your children's details for some specific events e.g photographs, extra curricular activities etc. Without your consent your child will not be able to take part in the events. Your child will be coming home with some consent and information sheets which we are asking you to sign and return to the school as soon as possible. We will also be asking for an up date on contact and medical details so we can update our system.

Thank you for your co-operation.

#### **Reminder of School Rules**

1. School begins at 9.00 for all children. Please ensure your child is not late as it disrupts their routine and they miss out on valuable learning.
2. School will finish for all children in mainstream at 1.45 every Monday.
3. We would ask that children contribute to the school fund every Tuesday by contributing 50p per child and £1.00 per family.
4. We are a healthy school and crisps, fizzy drinks, chocolate and sweets are not permitted at break or lunchtime.
5. Dogs, even those on a leash, are not permitted in the school grounds at any time.
6. If your child is off school please send in a note explaining their absence on the day of their return.
7. We would ask parents to please make every effort to ensure appointments are made outside of school hours. If you wish to get your child out of class early you must speak to Mrs Boyd or Mr White. Please do not go directly to the classroom.
8. If you have a problem please come and speak to the class teacher or Mrs Boyd. Please give us the opportunity to try to solve your problem. We would prefer you talk to us rather than use Facebook.
9. Children are not permitted to wear hoop earrings or rings in school.
10. Homework and Reading must be done and signed by the parent every night.
11. Please note that this is a no smoking school both in the school building and in the school grounds.
12. Children who behave inappropriately may
  - be stood out at break/lunchtime
  - placed in detention
  - sent to another class
  - given lines/additional work

**HOLY TRINITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**PARENTS NEWSLETTER**  
**SEPTEMBER 2018**

13. If you change your phone number please inform the school immediately to ensure we are able to contact you and you can receive texts.
14. Please check the school website regularly- all relevant information will be posted here.
15. Children are not permitted to bring mobile phones into school. If, on the rare occasion they must bring them they must be left in the school office in the morning and collected at the end of the day.

**Disrupting classes**

In the last term of school, up to fifteen parents per day were coming to collect their child out of school early. We realise that the weather was good and often parents were going on trips with their child. Unfortunately, this cannot continue. Telephones are not available in every classroom and therefore when the office phone up to get your child out of class, they are not only disturbing your child's class but the class who have a telephone in their room.

We also have had an increase in the number of parents who are arriving to the school, after school has started to bring in their child's break or PE gear. One again the teacher who has a telephone in their class has to stop teaching to send a child into the next class with a message.

Parents are also continually ringing after 2.00 daily to ask the office staff to pass on information to their child - where they have to go after school. Once again this is very disruptive and often it is very difficult to locate your child if they are in the yard or hall. Frequently the office staff have to leave the office to try to locate your child and this cannot continue.

From September we would ask parents to ensure that

- their child takes responsibility for ensuring they have their break and possessions with them on arrival to school as classes will not be disrupted to send them to them
- If you wish to get your child out early you must speak to Mrs Boyd or Mr White and sign your child out using the signing out sheet in the office
- your child knows in the morning where they have to go after school. Classes cannot be disrupted to pass on messages.

We appreciate your support in this matter.

**Maintenance**

We have been busy improving the school building. Last year we opened the new 3G pitch, the rewiring in the KS1 building was completed, the four staircases throughout the school were replaced and we are in the process of creating a ramp at the front of the school. We are also hoping to paint the P2 classrooms and refurbish the Accelerated Reading Library. We strive to continually provide a safe and pleasant learning environment for your child.

<p>If anything is happening at home that could have an impact on your child's education or well being or if you need advice or support please do not hesitate to come and see Mrs Boyd or Mr White who will support you in confidence.</p>
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### SEPTEMBER 2018

#### **Holy Trinity International Schools** **Award**

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the prestigious International Schools Award in recognition of the shared education programme we are involved in at home and abroad. Our involvement in these programmes helps our children develop an understanding of life in other areas and helps develop their develop confidence, understanding, tolerance and empathy. This is what the awarding body had to say about Holy Trinity:

“ Your very detailed application conveys a clear impression that the international and dimension is firmly embedded in your curriculum and whole-school ethos, promoting citizenship and celebrating cultural diversity across your school and wider community. Your established link with a school in Uganda and your new eTwinning partnership with a school in Poland are providing rich learning opportunities for both pupils and staff. The assessor particularly likes your "Conflict Resolution" activity, in which St. Mary's University students from different countries work with your pupils via simple drama activities to address a complex issue at an international level. Your submitted international activities cover a range of subject areas and age groups, with international work taking place throughout the year. Three of your activities involve the requisite collaboration with partner schools in other countries. Your "Titanic" project with Cumran Primary School is different in terms of religious, social and geographical background and is an excellent example of effective ICT-based communication and exchange of information with a science curriculum focus. Your detailed International Activity Summary also conveys a good

impression of the breadth of your long-term international links, activities and learning outcomes, including the required element of foreign language learning in your reference to the opportunity for pupils to develop German and Irish language skills. Your international work dovetails neatly with your school's Eco and Fairtrade focus, as well as the Global Learning Programme which you have recently completed. You recognise the benefits for your pupils in terms of increased knowledge of other countries and cultures as well as their acquisition of important citizenship skills and attributes. Your staff have benefitted from the Global Learning Programme in terms of curriculum planning skills to incorporate an international and dimension as well as the Uganda link, and increased knowledge and motivation. Local community members and groups are also regularly informed about your international and work. Your ambassadorial role in promoting and supporting international opportunities and links is firmly established via GLP and Uganda link networks, which enable you to promote international opportunities as well as showcasing your own activities, links and learning outcomes. You have good plans to sustain and further develop your international work, particularly via the consolidation of your new link with a school in Poland. Congratulations! The international dimension is prominent and dynamic at Holy Trinity Primary School. We wish you continuing success and enjoyment with your ongoing international work. ”

