

30th September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

The pupils have settled really well and it has been a joy getting to know our 34 new pupils. Like all schools, life is very busy at the start of term, so I thought it might be useful for you to have a full list of events for both Autumn 1 and Autumn 2 terms. This can be found at the back of this letter. If you have any doubt or questions about the events, please place a note in the home school book and we will respond.

I know it will take time for you to look at all the information, however I hope that by having the dates for events such as the parent consultation meetings (next week) ; playscheme; after school club it will help you organise your family events as well.

A gentle reminder – if you have changed your **mobile phone number**, please let us have it, as we send texts on a regular basis. (New parents please note that your contact details are being uploaded onto our texting system now).

New Staff

We welcome 4 new members of teaching staff to the school – Miss Grahame; Miss Heath; Miss Smith and Mrs Bull along with 4 Support Assistants – Mrs Cunningham; Mrs Gallagher; Miss Hollis and Mrs Mobbs.

Departments

Being such a large school it is always a little confusing about who to contact if you have questions about your child or their activities. The answer to this is either put a note in the home school book or phone the head of department. No calls are put through to classrooms during the working day, but there is always someone who can answer your questions.

The department leaders are:

Key stage 1 & 2	Miss Parker
Key stage 3 & 4	Miss Parker (years 7 &8) Mrs McCormac (year 9 and above)
Key stage 5	Ms Moulton
ASD department	Mrs Kennedy

Contacting the school

For those who have already made a visit to the school this term – we have a temporary reception – based in primary 1 which is the first building on the left hand side after you come through the entrance gate. Our build should finish on the 28th October – so all being well after half term, we will move the reception to its final place.

Premises developments over the summer

Like all schools we have been busy over the closure period and developed new secondary toilets; put in a new lift to cater for the larger wheelchairs; put in a new fire alarm system; have re decorated many classrooms; opened a second staff room and put shade in both our ASD playground and Primary 1 playground, in addition to developing a new ASD classroom for 6 years olds. As always we have been busy. The school looks

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lovely and we are delighted with the new developments. Our next project is the sports barn – replacing the showers; putting an electronic entrance and exit gate, with a new pedestrian gate; finding car parking facilities for staff and developing sixth form premises provision. (Just a few things for 2016 – 2017)

Food in School

We have a number of children who have severe nut allergies, so please do not send any nut related products into school. This includes items for break/snacks. It is greatly appreciated.

Photography and other permissions

Thank you to all parents who have already returned the permission forms. These forms are essential to us, as we do so many activities on and off site.

The photography permission is particularly important, as we are due to have the school photographer in school on Friday 21st October (the last day of term) and I know that the children like having a class photograph. If you do not give permission for the image of your child to be shared with others, then we cannot allow the class to have a group photograph with your child in. So please consider this when completing the form.

Playscheme – Important Information

We sent out flyers regarding play scheme last week and have not had a great response. This is a service we provide, at the request of parents, and a scheme which has to be self funded. If we do not have a minimum number of 15 pupils, for both days, then we will need to cancel this and future play schemes. Please complete the form if you would like a place. Playscheme is 9.00 am – 5.00pm. If the play scheme is not required, then I will inform parents of this by the 14th October.

Holiday Requests

I am sure all of you are aware that the law regarding holidays in term time is quite clear – they are not permitted. Regardless of whether we agree with this or not, absence related to holidays is unauthorised. I know this causes difficulties and upset, but it is the law. I do consider each case individually, and I will always look at exceptional circumstances, but once again a holiday is not considered an exceptional circumstance. So please, if you are thinking about taking your child out of school in term time, this needs to be discussed with me *before* you make arrangements. Thank You.

Finally,

I look forward to seeing you at one of our many events, and as always if you have any questions – please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

C.M.Grant
Headteacher
Ref: Bulletins: September 2016

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Dates for the Autumn Term 2016

Monday 5th September 2016	School Term Starts
Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th 2016	After School Clubs 3.30pm - 5.30pm
Tuesday 13th September 2016	Roald Dahl Day - dress up as your favourite character
Wednesday 28th September 2016	Parent Drop In Day Maths Focus and MacMillan Fundraiser
Monday 3 rd October 2016	Parent Consultations 3.30pm – 6.30pm
Tuesday 4 th October 2016	Parent Consultations 3.30pm – 5.00pm
Wednesday 5 th October 2016	Parent Consultations 3.30pm – 4.30pm
<i>Appointments only for Parent Consultations – please do not just turn up.</i>	
Wednesday 12 th October 2016	Harvest Afternoon
Friday 21 st October 2016	School Photographs
24th October— 31st October 2016	Half term & INSET Day
Wednesday 26th &	
Thursday 27th October 2016	Play scheme Days 0900 -1700
Tuesday 1st November 2016	School Re opens
Wednesday 16 th November 2016	Parent Time to Talk meeting 1000 - 1100
Thursday 24th November 2016	Parent drop In Day – Literacy Focus
Friday 25 th November 2016	Mufti - £1.00 to wear non school uniform
Wednesday 7th December 2016	School Christmas Fayre 5.00pm – 7.00pm
Week Beginning 12th December 2016	School Performance week
Monday 19th December 2016	Christmas Lunch wear your Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 20th December 2016	Christingle and last day of term
Thursday 5 th January 2017	School re Opens

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Term Dates Academic Year 2016 – 2017

Term	Open to pupils on the morning of:	Closed at end of afternoon on:
Term 1	Monday 5 th September 2016	Friday 21 st October 2016
Term 2	Tuesday 1 st November 2016	Tuesday 20 th December 2016
Term 3	Thursday 5 th January 2017	Friday 10 th February 2017
Term 4	Monday 20 th February 2017	Friday 31 st March 2017
Term 5	Wednesday 19 th April 2017	Friday 26 th May 2017
Term 6	Monday 5 th June 2017	Friday 21 st July 2017

Bank Holidays

26th and 27th December 2016
 2nd January 2017
 14th and 17th April 2017
 1st May 2017
 29th May 2017
 28th August 2017

Teacher Training Days

1st and 2nd September 2016
 31st October 2016
 4th January 2017
 18th April 2017

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