



**PENNINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND
JUNIOR SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1
2016/2017**



Welcome

Welcome back to you all. I hope you and your children have had a happy and successful start to the term, I can hardly believe that the first week has gone by already! I am so pleased with the children and their attitude to school; they have settled quickly to the new term and are focused on their learning. I am looking forward to seeing them continue to grow and flourish as the school year goes on.

Communication

This is the first newsletter of the year and slightly longer than usual. Newsletters are sent home fortnightly on Wednesday, so please make a note of the date in your diary so that you can ask your child for it or rummage through bags if it is forgotten at the bottom! The current copy is also displayed on the PJS notice boards for you to check if you are not sure if yours is up to date. Copies are available from the office and can also be found on our website, www.pennington-junior.com.

New Staff

You will have all received a copy of my letter last week introducing myself to you and inviting you to come and meet me personally on Thursday 22 September. I hope many of you will be able to make the date, either at 9.00am or 6.00pm. If you are not able to, I am usually outside at the start and end of most days so please do come and say hello.

I would also like to welcome Mrs Russell to the team. Mrs Russell is the class teacher for Class 6 in the afternoons. Mrs Ziapour will become Acting Deputy Head while Mrs Aspin is on maternity leave and so she will be out of class each afternoon. Mrs Russell will work across the school in different classes in the morning.

Mr Daniel has joined us from the Clifford Centre. He will be working across the school as part of our Pastoral Team. We know that, from time to time, children can experience a range of emotional difficulties in their lifetime, both great and small. We know that these difficulties can impact upon a child's ability to access learning and our Pastoral Team are here to help children get back on track and continue to learn.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Russell and Mr Daniel and I know that they will quickly feel part of the Team.

Maternity Leave

I am sure you will be aware that Mrs Aspin will be leaving us shortly to have her second baby. We wish her well, we will miss her greatly and will look forward to her return in due course. While she is away, Mrs Ziapour will pick up the reigns as Acting Deputy Head and I am very confident that she will do an excellent job. Mrs Ziapour will remain as Class 6 teacher in the mornings.

Homework

Homework is a really important part of school life. It gives children the opportunity to reinforce the learning that they have started during the school week and consolidates key knowledge and skills. We would like all children to read at home at least three times a week and practise their spellings and number facts (such as times tables) to be tested on a weekly basis. Children in the Upper School (Year 5 and Year 6) will also have a piece of English and Maths homework once a week. This week, we will be sending out the homework timetable for your child. Please make sure you are familiar with it and encourage your child to complete the work by the deadlines set. If you have any queries about any aspect of your child's homework then please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher for clarification.

Pupil Information Sheets

On many occasions, changes in telephone numbers or emergency contacts take place. A copy of your child's data collection sheet has already been sent home with your child. It is **very important** that you check the information and contact details immediately. Please return the form, amended as necessary, to the classteacher or school office by Friday 16 September. Thank you.

School Times

A member of staff is on duty on the back playground from 8.30 am onwards. In order to ensure appropriate supervision, no-one should arrive before this time as there is no supervision. The doors open at 8.35 am and school starts at 8.40 am. School finishes at 3.15 pm. Please collect your child from the rear of the school at this time. It is important that your child knows by whom they are to be collected.

Clubs

Your child will have brought home a list of clubs available to them during the Autumn Term. Please discuss with your child which clubs they would like to attend, tick the appropriate club and return to the classteacher or school office. It is **very important** if your child would like to participate in an after school club that they attend every week. If they are unable to attend on a particular day please make sure you, as parent/carer, notify the office beforehand. We have had many occasions previously where children have not turned up for their club which results in calling home to ensure they are safe.

New Forest Soccer will be running their popular after-school club on Fridays, starting Friday 16 September. Bookings can be made online at www.newforestsoccer.co.uk. Information leaflets are also available from the school office.

Miss Izod will be running Comic Club after Half Term. If you have any old comics, for the children to use, please hand them in to your child's class teacher or to the school office.

Contact With School

If you have any queries, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher, Special Needs Co-ordinator or myself. Try not to let small problems become big issues. Before school in the mornings is a very busy time for teachers, so please make every effort to see them after school, but if it is urgent pop into the office and inform them of important messages to be passed on.

I am usually on the playgrounds both before and after school every day, so please feel free to have a chat informally if you have any worries. We are all here to help and I try to make myself available as much as possible. Good relationships are very important to us and for the well being of all the children.

School Dinners

School meal menus are given to all children each Monday. It is an opportunity for the children to select what they would like to eat. Meals are prepared according to their selection. School dinners cost £2.10 per day (£10.50 per week) and should be **paid in advance** on Mondays. Cheques should be made payable to Hampshire County Council. If you have any queries or concerns about your child's choice of meals, please contact the school office.

Reading at Home

Reading is so important and vital for the future. All the children in school are encouraged to read as much as possible outside of school. Please try to make time to hear your child read as often as possible - it really does make a difference.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) - Welcome Meeting Monday 19 September

We are very lucky to have a dedicated and friendly team on the PTA and are always looking for more parents to help. If you are interested in supporting the PTA, please come along to our next meeting which is being held at PJS on **Monday 19 September at 2.00 pm**. If you would like to help, but are unable to attend the meeting, please leave your contact details with the school office. Any involvement or support is greatly appreciated. The funds they raise have benefited the children immensely and have helped to make PJS an even better place to be.

Our Summer Disco, which was held on Wednesday 13 July, was enjoyed by all the children (and staff) who attended and the fantastic sum of £467 was raised to add to the amount of £866 from the Summer Fair. We are very proud, as a school, to have your help and support to make these events such a success.

Health and Safety

It has been brought to my attention that on occasions, children have been at school as early as 8.00 am. Please work with us to ensure that this doesn't happen. If you do work, or need to leave your child early, then please drop them off at Pennington Infants to our join **EARLY BIRD** Club. Mrs Cooper helps to run the club and escorts pupils back to PJS at 8.30 am. The cost of the session, which starts at 8.05 am, is £2.00. Details available from the school office.

Also please ensure your children do not go into the Adventure Playground or Tyre Park before or after school as this area is out of bounds. It is used during our lunchtimes with supervision by our staff.

It is important for us to know exactly who is in the school building at all times. If you feel you need to come into school, especially first thing in the morning and after school, please ensure that you come in through the front entrance and report in at the office. It is not appropriate for us to have people in the building without being signed in. We have also noticed a few parents/adult relatives leaning over the playground gates to talk to children they see playing at playtimes. As tempting as this may be, could you please not attempt to contact the children on the playground. Keeping the children safe is a very important job for the people on duty and it isn't helped by this sort of distraction.

ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant)

We have two trained ELSAs in school (Mrs Cooper and Mrs Cantrell). They support some of our children with improving self-esteem, social and friendship skills and coping strategies for managing stress and anger. Our ELSAs encourage children to work out some of their problems and help them to feel happier and more secure at school. If your child is chosen to take part in ELSA sessions, we will contact you and involve you from the outset.

Games Shop

We have a variety of equipment that is available for children at playtime and lunchtime. They may purchase a key ring for £1 from their classteacher. This allows them to borrow items throughout their time at PJS - providing of course they do not lose their key ring! If they are lost, replacements can be purchased but the idea is to encourage a responsible attitude towards looking after equipment. Funds go towards replacing play equipment for everyone to enjoy.

Drinks

We would like all children to have a plastic non - spillable bottle of water available to drink in class. Our stock of water bottles are available to buy in the school office - price £1.00. Please ensure they are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Passports

On occasions I am asked to sign passport applications. Although we do not charge a fee for this service, we would very much like a contribution to school funds or a raffle prize. Thank you.

Snacks and Lunchtime Drinks

Children may bring in fruit to eat at playtime. They can also purchase snacks and drinks from the school kitchen. At lunchtime, fruit-flavoured drinks, bottled water and chocolate milk are available to buy. The children are responsible for their own money which should be brought in a purse, clearly labelled with their name.

| <i>Items available</i> | <i>Cost</i> |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Home made bread roll | 30p |
| Orange carton | 40p |
| Apple bottled drink | 50p |
| Bottled water | 30p |
| Milkshake | 50p |
| Fresh fruit | 30p |
| Packet of raisins | 25p |

Staff Car Park and Entrances

In the interest of safety we would ask that **no parents** use the school car park. We have two safe pedestrian entrances into school. One is located in the alleyway behind the games shed and the other immediately outside the school office. Please ensure that you don't let your children use the car park entrance.

Also, parking is limited outside of the school entrance at drop off and pick up times. Please can we be extra careful when parking at these times as we have been notified of a few incidents where courtesy, by adults, has not been exercised. Our main priority is the safety of our children when coming to and from school.

Disabled Visitors

We have a dedicated parking area in our school car park. There are disabled toilets in both the main building and the Creative Arts room and entrances are suitable for wheelchair access.

If you require newsletters in large print or another format then please let us know, along with any other facilities that you think would be beneficial.

School Photographer

Our photographer will be in school on Friday 23 September to take individual photos of the children. If you would like a family photograph, these will take place after school at 3.15pm in the school hall.

INSET Days 2016/17

The following days are confirmed as INSET days for 2016/17:

Friday 21 October

Monday 27 February

Monday 5 June

Monday 3 July

Cycling to School

The Government sponsor a cycle safety scheme called 'Bikeability' which replaces the old cycling proficiency scheme. This will be available for Year 6 children, next year, and more information will follow.

Even if a child has passed their Cycling Proficiency test, the authority recommends they are accompanied to school by an adult, as they are still developing an awareness of the road. However, if they do want to ride independently they must wear cycle helmets, inform the school and park their bike in the cycle shelter. I have been concerned to hear about a number of children who cycle to school without helmets, or who come with a helmet hanging from their handlebars instead of wearing it. I'm sure we are all aware of the risks of head injury, especially with the amount of traffic before and after school on Priestlands Road. I will be monitoring this situation and will NOT be giving permission to children to ride their bike to school if they are seen to be unsafe. Please also ensure that children walk their bikes within the school grounds to prevent accidents.

Jewellery

Of course we would prefer it if PJS followed Priestlands policy and did not wear any earrings. However, following consultation, our policy is:

- one pair of small plain stud earrings (no hoops, sparkly studs or dangly earrings) can be worn in the lobe at the bottom of the ear
- earrings must be removed or taped over for **all PE lessons**. (This is in line with Hampshire County Council PE department and must be adhered to)
- We would prefer it if no earrings were worn on PE days
- Other items of jewellery should not be worn. (Medical reasons will be considered individually)
- Watches can be worn and continue to be the responsibility of all pupils

Nail varnish should not be worn to school.

Nut Free Zone

Just a short note to remind everyone that this school is a 'nut free zone' (this includes peanut butter). This is to ensure the safety of all children and particularly those who are known to have a severe allergy to these products.

Harvest Festival

This is being held on Monday 3 October at St Mark's Church at 2.15pm. It would be lovely to see as many people there as possible, please come and join us. This year all donated produce will be given to the New Forest Basics Bank who support and help families and individuals in need. If you are able to help donate to this charity, please could all items you send in be in packets or tins.

The items that Basics Bank are in most need of are:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Milk (UHT) | Coffee - eg 100g jars |
| Sugar (500g pack) | Meat or fish paste |
| Tinned soup - preferably NOT tomato | |
| Tinned fish | Tinned potatoes |
| Tinned meat | Tinned vegetables |
| Tinned custard | Tinned rice pudding |
| Cook-in-sauces | Sponge puddings |
| Washing-up liquid | Toothpaste |
| Toothbrushes | Toilet rolls |
| Nappies - sizes 3/4 | Shampoo 300ml |
| Shower gel 250ml | Soap |
| All purpose cloths | |

These can be given to your child's class teacher. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at our Harvest Festival.

We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to a happy and successful year ahead.

Dates for your Diary:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 12 - 16 September | Year 6 Avon Tyrrell Trip |
| Friday 16 September | New Forest Soccer commences |
| Wednesday 21 September | Year 6 visit to Priestlands |
| Thursday 22 September | Meet the Head Teacher |
| 9.00 am or 6.00 pm | |
| Friday 23 September | School Photographer |
| Monday 3 October | Harvest Festival at St Mark's Church |
| 17 - 20 October | Year 6 Mock SATs |
| Friday 21 October | INSET School closed |
| Monday 24 October | Half Term |
| Monday 31 October | Return to school |

Don't forget to visit our website: www.penningtonjunior.com

Sue Saxby
Headteacher

14 September 2016

