



Forefield Community Infant and Nursery School

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'Learning and Growing Together'



24th November 2023

Dear Parents,

Newsletter No. 6

The weeks leading up to Christmas are a very special time in school and preparations for festive events are now well under way. I very much look forward to seeing you all at the various Christmas activities that are planned between now and the end of term.

Parents' Consultation Meetings

Thank you to all those parents who were able to attend parents' meetings last week. We hope you found the meetings a useful opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into his or her new class; the progress he or she is making and targets for the next half-term.

Competitions

Over the next few weekends we have some children who are taking part in various competitions across the country. We would like to wish Caleb, and Tobi from Year 2 and Timi from Reception a huge good luck this weekend in their Taekwondo competitions. We would also like to wish Heidi from Year 2 good luck in her upcoming trampolining championships. We can't wait to hear all about your competitions soon.

Children in Need

There were lots of spots and dots on every possible item of clothing from socks to scarves and from headbands to jumpers around school last Friday. Through all of the voluntary donations an amazing total of **£310.00** was raised for **Children in Need** - well done everyone and thank you!

Punctuality

As a polite reminder, our school day begins at **8.50am**. Gates will be closed promptly to ensure all staff get into class ready for the start of lesson to supporting effective learning. Our school gates are open from **8.40am to 8.50am** to give all children and parents a 10-minute window to drop children off at school on time. As always, we suggest you drop off younger siblings first, before dropping any older siblings at the Juniors or any other schools. Any children arriving after the gate closes will need to enter school through the front entrance. Children will need to be signed into school using our new signing in system by the parent or guardian bringing them. This is because registration is completed promptly at 8.50am by class teachers, therefore children need to be signed into school to ensure their attendance is logged. Any children arriving through the front entrance after 8.50am will be marked as late by the system. Children arriving after 9.30am without a reason e.g. a medical appointment, will be marked with a U code as per our Attendance & Punctuality Policy, which is available on our website for anyone to read.

As you can see from the table below, even being just 5 minutes late per day results in 3 whole days of lost learning. All of these minutes add up! In addition to these lost minutes of learning, quite often children arriving late for lessons means children miss important information about the rest of the school day or miss the beginning of lessons which for us is the retrieval part of lessons during which links are made between new & prior learning. Brain research tells us this is how learning becomes embedded into children's long-term memory. Therefore, if children miss this part of lesson it may have a significant impact on their long-term knowledge and understanding. Thank you for your continued co-operation and support.



Christmas Activities

We will mark the arrival of December with our first events of the season. In school children will take part in our inter-class sports competitions on Friday 1st December. Children will participate in a Christmas fun run challenge (weather permitting). All children (Rec-Year2) should come to school wearing PE kits on this day. Children may also wear a Christmas accessory e.g. Santa hat or head band. Please ensure any items coming into school are named.

FOFIS Committee have been busy organising our hugely popular **Family Christmas Bingo on Friday 1st December**. Ticket forms have been sent out this week and we will be in touch soon to let you know if you have been allocated tickets. Due to this event being hugely popular amongst our school community, adult tickets are limited to 2 per family. We are unfortunately limited to numbers for health and safety reasons, therefore if this event is oversubscribed, ticket requests will be drawn at random from a hat (**Not** be allocated on a first come first served basis). Any children/families not successful in gaining tickets this time, will be given first preference for tickets for our Easter Bingo. **Mon 28th Nov is a MUFTI Day** when we invite children to come to school in their own clothes in return for a '**chocolate**' donation' to support the Bingo prizes.

Christmas lunch will take on **Thursday 7th December** for the children in school. Child should come to school wearing Christmas jumpers as this is also Save the Children Christmas jumper day. We won't be collecting money in school for Save the Children however if parent's wish to do so, they can make donations to the charity online.

I have it on good authority that Father Christmas will fit time into his busy schedule to call into Forefield on **Santa Day** which is on **Friday 8th December**. Children should come to school wearing their own clothes on Santa day, this could be Christmas themed if you wish. More details for this special day will be sent out soon via the app.

A new event this year for FOFIS is their Christmas Craft Fayre which will take place on **Sunday 10th December from 11am-4pm** in the school hall. There will be a whole array of

different stalls to purchase some last minute Christmas gifts or event just treat yourself. Please come along with your little ones and support FOFIS at this event.

The last FOFIS event of the festive season will be our **Rockin' Robin Discos** for the children on **Thursday 14th December 4.30-5.30pm and 6-7pm**. More information will be sent home soon via the school app with details of how to secure a place on the guest list for one of these discos.

Christmas parties will take place on **Monday 18th December**. Children may like to wear Christmas jumper or their own party clothes for their party day - please ensure clothing/footwear are suitable for playing outside.

Ordering information about Christmas lunch and Christmas Party Day has been sent out via the school app. If you have not already done so, please complete and return the order forms for your child asap.

All money raised from these various FOFIS events and activities will go towards supporting a new project converting the quad area in school into an all year-round outdoor learning space for all children to use.

Christmas Concerts

This year as always, our **Reception children** will be performing a **Christmas play** for parents and our Nursery children performing a Christmas Concert. You should have received a form on the app to request tickets for you preferred performance date/time.

Reception - Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December both @ 2.30pm.
Nursery - Thursday 14th December @ 11am or 2.45pm

Please complete and return this form by Sunday 26th November as we will be allocating places on Monday 27th November. Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis although we will do our best to accommodate your preferred day if possible. We will send out a notification via the app on Monday 27th November confirming the date/time of your allocated performance.

Icy Weather Plan

So far this year the weather had been fairly mild, however as we approach winter, I wanted to remind parents of our drop off plans if there is a sudden drop in temperature and the weather conditions become icy. As you will appreciate, our school is a large site with a number of entrances/exits. Mr Dandy, our Site Supervisor would have to work through the night to grit all the entrances, exits and playgrounds for everyone's safe arrival in the morning and that is if we have prior warning of adverse weather conditions. Should the weather be icy, the following revisions to drop-off arrangements will be made:
Nursery - entry will be via the Nursery Playground gate off Sefton View only. Children should be handed over to a member of staff at the Nursery gate.

Reception - to be handed over to staff at the Forefield Lane gate. Staff will then supervise the children into the building.

Y1 & Y2 - arrangements will remain the same with children handed over at the and then making their way in to the nearest entrance.

We anticipate that collection arrangements can remain the same as they are currently as we will have had time to grit playgrounds and for ice to have melted. We will notify parents via the app if we need to implement the icy weather drop-off arrangements. To ensure any messages sent out are received by the correct family members, parents may wish to add additional contacts to our school app eg grandparents/aunts and uncles, especially if they are involved in drop-off and collection. To do this, the main user should go on to the app and select the 'More' tab and select 'additional contacts'. Here you can add up to three additional contacts.

Please also ensure your notifications are turned on in your settings, to ensure you do not miss any important information, there is a lot coming your way at this time of year especially.

Reception & Nursery Intake September 2024

During the Autumn Term we will be holding tours of school for any parent or family members interested in finding out more about Forefield (either Nursery and/or Reception) for their child. If you do know of anyone considering Forefield for their child, please do encourage them to take a look at our website, the curriculum and year group pages to get a feel for what school has to offer and to contact the school office to book a place on a school tour.

All applications for Reception places in September 2024 must be submitted on line to www.sefton.gov.uk/admissions by 15th January 2024 which is the final closing date.

Nursery intake - For admission to the Nursery in September 2024, applications must be submitted by **noon on Friday 2nd February 2024** and parents will be notified of places by Friday 15th March 2024. If you require any additional information regarding admission to school, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Edwards or Mrs Gregory in the School Office.

Dates for your diary

Nov

Mon 27th Nov Mutfi Day - Chocolate Donations

Tue 28th Nov 4pm Prospective parent tour

Dec

Fri 1st Dec Interclass Sports Competitions - **Children to wear PE Kit + Xmas accessory if they wish**

FOFIS Christmas Bingo

Mon 4th Dec 9.15am Prospective Parent tour

Wed 6th Dec Yr1 & Yr2 Christmas Journey Experience (in school hall)

Thurs 7th Dec Christmas Lunch - **Wear Christmas Jumper**

Fri 8th Dec Santa Day - **Wear own clothes (Christmas themed if they wish)**

Sunday 10th Dec FOFIS Christmas Craft Fayre - School Hall - 11am-4pm.

Tues 12th Dec 2.30pm Reception Christmas Performance

Wed 13th Dec 2.30pm Reception Christmas Performance

Thurs 14th Dec 11am/2.45pm Nursery Christmas Concert

FOFIS Rockin' Robin Christmas Discos - 4.30-5.30 / 6-7pm.

Mon 18th Dec Christmas Party day

Tues 19th Dec Reading Golden Ticket Pantomime

End of term for Nursery children

Wed 20th Dec 1.45pm finish end of term

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Thurs 21st December – 3rd JANUARY 2023

Jan 2024

Wed 3rd Jan INSET Day - school closed for pupils

Thurs 4th Jan **Children return to school**

Our last newsletter for this term will be available on Friday 8th December 2023.

Yours sincerely

B Roberts

Headteacher