



Forefield Community Infant and Nursery School

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'We A.S.P.I.R.E to Learn and Grow Together'



9th February 2024

Newsletter No. 11

Dear Parents,

I cannot quite believe we are at half term already and half way through the school year. Our final week of the half term has been just as busy as the first week back.

Online-Safety Week 5th-9th February

With the rapidly increasing use of technology such as tablets; mobile phones; computers by young children, and the increasing use of social networking and the internet in general, online safety is an important issue for us all as parents and carers. It is often very tricky to keep ourselves, 'up-to-speed' with the latest safety information to ensure that we can put the appropriate measures in place to safeguard our children both young and older. To this end, we continue to subscribe to monthly newsletters for parents and carers to provide you with information, tips, 'how to guides' so that you feel equipped to keep your little ones as safe as possible whilst using technology, which is a key part of the world in which our children are growing up. This week we sent out a special edition online safety newsletter containing some very useful links. The February online safety newsletter will also be sent out today containing some very useful information on setting up parental controls on a PlayStation, Snap Chat and advice on when using social media is age appropriate.

In school this week the children attended a special assembly on Tuesday, which was national Online Safety Day. During this assembly Mrs Wolfarth read the children the story 'Troll Stinks' by Jennie Willis and Tony Ross all about appropriate use of the internet.

Year 1 African Animal Day

On Thursday I was unsure if I had arrived in school or at Chester Zoo! The Year 1 children put on a spectacular display of colourful costumes to represent themselves as different African animals. We had elephants, lions, cheetahs and some bright and colourful birds to name but a few. We even had some explorers on hand to keep a close eye on the animals throughout the day. The children enjoyed a wonderful day celebrating African cultures and traditions and bringing all of their learning to life from the last half term. The day included dancing, arts and crafts and African drumming as well as raising money to sponsor an animal at Chester Zoo.

Children's Mental Health Week

Mrs Gilroy delivered an assembly on Monday introducing the theme for this years Children's Mental Health Week which is 'My Voice Matters'. The children heard about significant people who had used their voice to do something good for their communities. They also read the story 'Speak Up' by Nathan Bryon, a story about a little girl who uses her voice to help save her local library from being closed. After half term we will learning more about the issues currently ongoing around Rimrose Valley and how we can use our voices to share our thoughts and opinions on this matter. We had an exciting end to our week and half term, being able to dress-up in our favourite clothes or outfit for our Dress to Express celebration day in school. It has been lovely to see all of the different outfits and most importantly hearing the reasons why the children chose the outfit that they did today from football kits to sparkly dresses from Disney princesses to superheroes - we were all able to understand that everyone is different and to celebrate our own uniqueness. We raised a total of £191.75 which will go towards Place 2 Be Charity.



Healthy School



Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values

Dropping Off Procedures

Over the last few years we have tried several different systems for dropping off in the mornings and collection in the evening to try and make this part of the day as safe and calm for all children and parents of Forefield and the local community. This may have been before your child attended Forefield or may have not been relevant to you at that time, if your child was not using that specific entrance for dropping off. Of all of the systems trialled previously, the current system in place is the most successful for our children.

The current drop off arrangements, including opening the gates and school 10 minutes before the start of the school day, meaning that children can be dropped off at any point between 8.40 and 8.50am. This creates a slow trickle of children entering school, rather than all 180 children entering through 2 doors, at one time, and trying to navigate down a busy corridor full of children (especially for those children in classes in the middle of the corridor) which can be quite traumatic for many children and definitely not a good way to start their day. The current system means only a handful of children are on the corridor at any one time allowing clear access to all classrooms on a calm and quiet corridor. It also allows teachers to greet every child and check in on how they are doing that morning, which helps us to support children's wellbeing throughout the day. It may be children are feeling tired, they may be sad as a parent has gone to work early, they may be excited for a birthday or for a special trip they are going on that weekend. This meet and greet would just not be possible if all children entered the building at the same time.

Waiting around on the playground for the school doors to open increases anxiety for many children, and historically some children found it extremely difficult to separate from parents at the start of the school day following this period of waiting on the playground. We often found children attempting to run off the playground, chasing after parents as a result of this separation anxiety. A playground full of parents, potentially around 180 at any one time, makes it very difficult for any parent or staff member to spot and stop a child running off after parents, and is therefore a significant safeguarding risk.

I do however acknowledge the issues raised by parents, and have been in communication with Sefton Highways on several occasions, as well as monitoring the drop off and collection arrangements for our school with the Governors. The pavement areas outside school are narrow on Trevor Drive and based on our monitoring, observations and suggestions from the Governing Body, we would like to trial some changes to support dropping off systems and ease footfall along Trevor Drive.

What we have done and will continue to do -

- We will continue to work with Sefton Highways, working towards safer areas around our school.
- We will continue to have an open door policy for any parents/carers to come into school and discuss any concerns/issues.
- We will ensure gates are open promptly at 8.40am and remain open until 8.50am.
- Ensure staff are supervising on all gates - reassuring parents that once children are handed over at the gate, they **will not** be able to exit the playground/building.

- If you are dropping children at different entrances e.g. you have a child in Reception and Yr2, you can drop them both at the same entrance. We would suggest dropping them at the Reception entrance on Forefield Lane, as the older child is more likely to be familiar with finding their way around school and to class. **This will not include Nursery children or the use of the Nursery gate/entrance as the internal doors between Nursery and the main school building are not accessible by children for safeguarding reasons.**
- As class 9 is on the same corridor as the Reception classes, children in Class 9 can use the Reception entrance if they wish to do so and if this entrance is closer for families.
- Open the second gate on Sefton View to allow an additional exit route from the school site via Sefton View. Parents dropping siblings at Nursery & Reception can also use this pathway to access both EYFS entrances. The internal gate between Nursery and Reception will no longer be in use.
- Implement suggested no stopping zones around both entrance gates on Trevor Drive to keep the entrances clear.
- Continue our WOW initiative to encourage as many parents/children to walk/ride to school and to not park on/in areas around the school.
- Install more scooter/bike racks at the Year 2 end of the playground to make it easier for children travelling to school on bikes/scooters to drop scooters on the way into school.
- Continue to monitor the drop off and collection procedures in the future.

What parents can do -

- Gates will open at 8.40am. Please try not arrive before 8.40am as families queueing outside the gates can cause an obstruction to other families who are trying to pass on the pavement.
- If you are waiting for the gates to open, please stand in single file against the wall/railings, or wait a little away from the gates at a wider point on the pathway e.g. the corner of Trevor Drive and Forefield Lane.
- Once the gates open, if you can drop your child off, give them a quick wave and move away from the gate area as this causes the vast majority of the congestion and makes it difficult for people to navigate along the pavement. **Please remember, once your child has entered the gates, they cannot exit the gates/building as we have staff positioned on all gates and entrances for this exact reason.**
- Please ensure your child has all of their belongings before you get to the gate as stopping to transfer bags/water bottle etc, even for a few seconds causes an obstruction to other parents passing by. If you need to transfer items to your child, please do this a little bit away from the school gates to avoid this issue.
- If you are bringing dogs with you, please keep them on a short lead and please do not tie them to the school fence or leave them unaccompanied. We have witnessed several incidents in our monitoring, where children have been struggling to get past dogs on the pathway and on one occasion, a child actually became tangled in the dogs lead causing the child to become extremely upset.
- If you can walk to school, please do so and if you do need to drive, please try and park a little away from the school and walk the short distance to the school gates. This makes the area around school safer for everyone.
- All dogs (except guide dogs) are not allowed on the school site, including the Reception pathway.

We will all appreciate that families are trying to get to school/work as quickly and safely as possible, and by working together, we can hopefully improve things for everyone.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day and the enjoyment of reading on Thursday 7th March. Teachers have planned some exciting activities for the day both in year groups and whole school. Children are invited to come to school dressed up. Please see individual Year Group Newsletters for information and more details regarding costumes themes and activities for your child. Please do not feel you need spend lots of money purchasing a costume. Planning and making a costume might be a great activity to occupy the children over the half-term break!

Parents' Evenings

We will be holding mid-year parents' meetings on Monday 11th March and Wednesday 13th March 4-7pm and Nursery only on Tues morning 9-11.30am. Meetings will be 10 minutes per child to ensure teachers have capacity to meet with all parents/carers of the children in their class. Parents will be able to book an appointment via the app from Monday 26th February. You will receive an alert to let you know the booking system is live. If you have not downloaded or don't have access to the app, please contact the school office for support.

Activities for the Half-term break

Half term is a great time to dig out those Activity Passports and choose one or more of the activities on your list to cross off. Remember these are all activities that will support your child's learning and are linked to our bespoke curriculum here at Forefield.

Details of other activities being offered in the local area are below and the Be Active Guide for February Half Term will be sent out on our App.

Active Sefton

Active Sefton has a range of different activities planned for the half-term break including Sports, & Games activities; Dance & Acro camps and workshops, discounted swimming sessions at various leisure centres; swimming crash courses for children aged 4+; football camps run by the LFC Foundation in conjunction with Active Sefton and 'Ditch those Stabiliser' sessions at Litherland Sports Park.

For further information or to book any sessions/programmes check out the website www.sefton.gov.uk/beactive ring 0151 288 6286 or email: Active.Sports@sefton.gov.uk

Museums and Art Galleries

We are also very lucky to have museums and art galleries on our door step in Liverpool, many of which are free of charge: The World Museum, The Walker Art Gallery, Maritime Museum. Follow the link to find out more:

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/whatson>

Reception & Nursery Intake September 2024

The closing date for applications for admission to Reception in September 2024 was the 15th January. If your child is due to start Reception next academic year and you have not yet submitted an application form, please contact Ms Edwards in the school's office or Sefton's Admissions Section on 0151 934 3590 who will be able to help you.

September 2024 Nursery Intake - Just a reminder that the closing date for Nursery applications for children to start in September 2024 was Friday 2nd February. Allocation of places will be made and sent out to parents on Friday 15th March 2024. Please contact the school office for any further information or to arrange a school visit.

Upcoming Dates

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY Mon 12th Feb to Fri 16th Feb

Mon 19 th Feb	Return to school
Wed 21 st Feb	4pm Prospective Parent tour
Fri 23 rd Feb	9-10.30 - Behaviours that Challenge Parent Workshop

March

Thurs 7 th Mar	World Book day 7pm Diversity Concert -Mountford Hall, Liverpool
Fri 8 th Mar	9.15am Prospective Parent tour
Mon 11 th Mar	Yr1 Trip to Martin Mere 4-7pm Parent Consultation Meetings
Wed 13 th Mar	4-7pm Parent Consultation Meetings
Fri 15th Mar	Notification of Nursery places for entry Sept 2024
Mon 18 th Mar	4pm Prospective Parent tour
Tues 19 th Mar	Class 4 Assembly for Parents @ 9.15am
Wed 20 th Mar	Class 5 Assembly for Parents @ 9.15am
Thurs 21 Mar	Class 6 Assembly for Parents@ 9.15am
Wed 27 th Mar	Nursery Easter Bonnet Parades End of Term for Nursery children
Thurs 28 th Mar	Easter Bonnet Parades 1.50pm End of Term

Fri 29th March to Fri 12th April 2024 Easter Holiday

Mon 15 th April	Return to school
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Our next newsletter will be circulated on Friday 1st March 2024.

Yours sincerely

B. Roberts

Headteacher