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## Weekly Newsletter – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

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Appleton Street, Warsop,

Mansfield, Notts, NG20 0QF

Telephone: 01623 842163

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Dear Parents & Carers

Many thanks to all of you who made a massive effort in supporting our Jeans for Genes Day.

### **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

These are taking place this Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September. There will be no celebration assembly this week.

As usual, all children will have their photos taken individually and with siblings. If you would like your child's photo taken with a younger or older sibling who does attend our school then please be in school for 8.15am. If your child attends nursery in the afternoon then please bring your child in the morning if you would like their photo taken.

### **INSET DAY Change**

The INSET Day originally scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 has been rescheduled for Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019. This decision is out of our control, as it is due to a whole Trust event.

### **ALDI Sticker**

We are participating in Aldi's 'GETSET. EATFRESH' campaign and collecting the stickers. So remember that for each £30 you spend collect a sticker and send it in to school.

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**BIRKLANDS**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Happening this week

### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

KS1 Sports Club 3-4pm

Football Club 3-4.15pm

### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

Foundation & Key Stage One

disco- 3.00pm- 4.00pm

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

Key Stage 2 Welcome disco

3.15- 4.30pm

### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

School Photos

## **Uniform/PE Kits**

As we are encouraging our children to be the best version of themselves that they can be, we **expect** that **all** our pupils come to school every day wearing the correct school uniform. This includes black shoes NOT trainers. Full details of our school uniform can be found on the school website.

We also ask that the school policy with regards to PE kit is also followed. Any child wearing a top that we feel is inappropriate will be asked to go and collect one from our spare PE kit. We advise that your child brings their PE to school every Monday and keeps it in school all week, then take home on a Friday to be washed.

As you can imagine, we have many of the same items of clothing in school. Therefore, please ensure that all of your child's clothing has their name in it to avoid things going missing and/or going home with the wrong child.

## **Attendance**

Research is showing the massive impact that poor attendance at school can have on a child's life chance. As a school, we encourage all children to attend school on a regular basis. Our target for every child is 96%. Any child that drops below that target should expect to receive a letter outlining our expectations, how we can help to improve attendance, along with what we expect from you.

Please be aware that as a Trust we do fine for holidays taken during term-time.

If your child has a mild cough or cold then they will be expected to be in school. We are able to administer medicine providing a consent form is signed by parents. If your child is sick, then please keep them at home for 24 hours. If they have diarrhoea, please keep them home for 48 hours. Antibiotics can be administered in school, again with a signed consent form.

## **Keeping Our Children Safe**

As you may be aware, our pupil numbers are increasing and we are constantly reviewing our safeguarding procedures e.g. dismissing at the end of the day. We would therefore appreciate your cooperation with these procedures:

Dismissing at the end of the school day – Please wait for your child to be dismissed by the teacher and keep well away from the doorways and steps.

If you wish to speak to your child's teacher, please wait until all children are safely with an adult before engaging in conversation or make an appointment.

If there is a change in your child's end of day routine, please let staff know e.g. different adult collecting them.

Walking Home Alone – if you feel that your child is mature enough to walk home on their own then we will now require a permission slip completing to allow this.

Parents in School – A reminder that parents are not allowed beyond the office reception area unless they have an appointment. If your child arrives late at the start of the day, after the doors are closed, please bring them to school office and we will ensure they get to class.

Breakfast Club – Now our children are settled, when dropping your child off at Breakfast Club please hand them over to our staff at the lower hall door. Breakfast Club staff will make sure that your child's belongings are where they should be.

School Gate – When you enter and leave the school grounds after 8.45am and before 2.45pm, please ensure that you close the gate behind you.

Playground Equipment – No children, either from our school or others should be playing on the playground equipment.

### **Morning Snack and Tuck**

As a school it is our duty to encourage our pupils to make healthy choices. We therefore request that if children bring their own snack for morning break it is not chocolate based. It should be a piece of fruit or a healthy cereal bar.

In school we do offer tuck, at morning break. Pupils can purchase a piece of toast, fruit or a cup of milk. All items are 30p and our children can buy a maximum of two items. Based on this if your child does not have a Squid account and you send them with money for tuck please send either 30p or 60p.

As we are moving towards having lunch and break run as a cashless system we encourage all parents/carers to setup and use a Squid account.

### **sQuid Accounts**

If you would like a registration form to set up a sQuid account to pay for school meals and tuck then please collect from the school office. Please note that we are aiming to become a cashless school so would encourage parents to pay by this method. Due to parents not keeping their child's sQuid account in credit, we are now introducing a rule that if any account is more than £5 in arrears your child will not be allowed to have tuck and we will ask you to send in packed lunches until the debt is cleared. The reason for introducing this rule is that the school has incurred a large debt due to arrears from last academic year.

### **Free School Meals**

We would encourage all parents to apply for Free School Meals if you think that you may qualify. This is very easy to do and an instant answer will be given. Parents can either register online via the County Council's website or they can telephone 0300 500 8080 to apply over the phone. All new applicants who are successful will receive a free school polo shirt. Please collect from the school office. If you would like assistance in making your application then please feel free to come into school. We would encourage everyone who thinks they may qualify to make an application. Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and receives Universal Infant Free School Meals, the school will receive extra funding which can be used to assist you in things such as school trips, uniform and enrichment activities.

## **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club is available every day from 7.30am. Please do not try to enter the building any earlier as our insurance does not cover pupils being in the building prior to this time. The cost of Breakfast Club is £2. However, if your child qualifies for Free School Meals, we can offer this for free. If your child has ever qualified for Free School Meals then we can offer a reduced cost of £1. If you are unsure, please come and have a chat with us.

## **Extra-curricular Clubs**

Our staff are busy deciding and organising which extra-curricular clubs they will be offering this term. Some of these will be during the lunch-break and others after school. Don't forget if your child would like to sign up for one or more of these send in the reply slips

## **Upcoming Dates**

School Photographs – 20<sup>th</sup> September  
Internet safety parent information workshop- 26<sup>th</sup> September  
INSET day (school closed)- 4<sup>th</sup> October  
Parents' Evenings – 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> October  
Mansfield Museum visit for Dove class (Y2) - 9<sup>th</sup> October  
Book bus in school (details to follow) - 14<sup>th</sup> October  
Flu vaccinations (forms to follow) - 17<sup>th</sup> October