



# Newsletter

September 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back everyone! I hope you've had a lovely break. It has been so lovely to see the children looking so smart and ready for the new term.

The staff have planned ahead to ensure a successful and exciting year for the children. Please do put all dates for the autumn term in your diary now.

Yours faithfully,  
Mrs Zoe Anderson  
**Head Teacher**

## Uniform

The children have started back looking very smart in their school uniforms and we do encourage all children to wear the correct uniform. It would be a shame to lose any of it this early in the term so could you please make sure that all uniform is labelled with your child's name and class.

If you still require some new uniform then you can purchase this through the School Trends website [www.schooltrendsonline.com](http://www.schooltrendsonline.com). You are welcome to come and view the range available in the school entrance.

## Diary Dates

7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	2.30pm KS1 Parents Meeting
12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	2.30pm F2 Parents Meeting
11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Life Education Bus
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Blue Class to visit allotment
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	MTFC Football session for Red/Green/Blue
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	MTFC Football session for Pink/Purple
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Red Class to visit allotment
25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	MTFC Penalty Shootout

## Diary Dates Cont.

29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Green Class to visit allotment
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Pink Class to visit allotment
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Individual/family group photos
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parent/Teacher Interviews
12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parent/Teacher Interviews
13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Purple Class to visit allotment
17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parents Curriculum Morning
19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Wear it Pink Day
19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Children break up for half term
20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	INSET Day
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	INSET Day
31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Children return to school
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Blunderbus Theatre Company
6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Infant/Junior Admission Applications open
11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ragtex Clothing Collection
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Dinner
7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Fundraiser
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Pantomime at Mansfield Palace Theatre
14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.00pm Foundation Concert
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30am Foundation Concert
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2.30pm KS1 Concert
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30am KS1 Concert
21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Christmas Parties
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	2.30pm Carols around the tree
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Break up for Christmas
8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Back to school
16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	INSET Day
25 <sup>th</sup> May	INSET Day

### PE Kits / Water Bottles

Could we please remind you that for PE your child needs a named bag containing a **white /emerald green round necked T-shirt, navy/black shorts and plimsolls/trainers**. A set of PE Kit in a bag can be bought online from School Trends. As we have had issues with children not bringing in PE kits in the past, we will only send kit home at the end of a half term, however if you wish to take it home to wash at the end of a week you can but please ensure it is returned the following Monday.

On days when your child takes part in PE, could we please ask that all jewellery is removed and hair is tied back. If earrings are new and cannot be removed then please provide plasters/tape to cover them

Water bottles need to be in school on a Monday and will be sent home on a Friday to be thoroughly cleaned. The bottles are emptied and lids sterilised on a daily basis.

### Open Door

You are given the opportunity to come into school each week to read with your child as well as choose a library book in our 'Open Door' sessions. These are from 2.55pm-3.10pm in the school hall/library. Green Class is on a Monday, Red Class on a Wednesday and Blue Class/Pink Class Year 1's on a Thursday. We look forward to seeing you then.



### Universal Infant Free School Meals/Packed Lunch

As I am sure you are all aware that all infant aged children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes) will receive their midday school meal free of charge. The meals provided by Nottinghamshire County Council have won awards for quality so we encourage all children to give them a try!

If you choose to provide a packed lunch for your child, please make sure that it adheres to our Healthy Packed Lunch Policy which means no chocolate, crisps, sweets or fizzy drinks. A copy of the policy can be found on our website.

In addition to this the Government are providing additional funding to our school for each pupil that is eligible for the Pupil Premium. To ensure we capture all funds that are applicable which will enable us to provide additional equipment, support and activities for the pupils, if you believe you qualify for Free School Meals please visit <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/school-dinners/free-schoolmeals/> where you can apply online.

You may qualify for free school meals if your child attends a Nottinghamshire County Council School or Nursery full time (in line with the school's published admission arrangements) and you receive one of the following benefits:

- income support
- income based jobseeker's allowance
- income related employment support allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- child tax credit, provided you are not entitled to working tax credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- guarantee element of state pension credit

### Parents Meetings

Please note that we will be holding parents meetings over the next couple of weeks. These meetings are very important and we urge all parents to attend. They will be talking about what to expect over the year. For **Year 1 and Year 2 (KS1)** you should attend at **2.30pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September**. For **Reception (F2)** you should attend at **2.30pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September**.

We will also be holding a parents morning on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October** from **9.00-10.00am** where you can come into your child's class and spend time looking at how we teach as well as playing games with your child.

## Attendance / Punctuality

Our attendance target this year, which is monitored through Ofsted, is **96%**. Our attendance for 2016 – 2017 was **95.9%** which is an increase of 0.6% on the previous year. We really need to work on improving attendance and a copy of our attendance policy was sent out at the end of last term. The main reasons for absence are early childhood illness and holidays taken in term time. Although illness cannot be helped, please help us to reach our target by **not** taking holiday during term time. We are very concerned about the number of holiday forms being requested already and we have only just returned to school! A copy of the holiday pattern and the INSET days for the year are included in this newsletter.

Please remember that school starts at 8.45am and doors open at 8.40am so that children can put their coats and book bags away. The children complete important pre-learning and consolidation tasks during this time so they need to be on time.

## Well Done Assembly

For those parents new to the school, we hold a Well Done Assembly on a Friday at 2.45pm. Children who have worked or behaved exceptionally well over the week will be put into the assembly as well as anyone who reaches the end of their sheet of stamps and is due to receive a certificate. You will be notified if your child is in that week's Well Done Assembly by text.



## School Grounds

Please can I remind you that this is a no smoking site (which includes the use of e-cigarettes). We value the health of our children as well as wanting to ensure the children have positive role models whilst at school.

Dogs are also not allowed on school property due to health and safety reasons and would appreciate them being kept outside the school gates.

## Emergency Contacts

Please can all families ensure the office have any new telephone or address details.

During the year the school needs to know if you move house, change telephone number or change emergency contact numbers. To ensure the safety of your child it is vital we always have up to date information.

We are trying hard to keep you up to date with things going on through the use of our texting system. In order to do this we need to have a current mobile number on our system.

## Allotment Visits

As you can see from the diary dates, each class will be given the opportunity to visit our Community Allotment (weather permitting). Please make a note of what day your child's class is going and ensure that they come to school appropriately dressed on that day (i.e. old clothes and trainers/wellies). At this time of year, the children really enjoy harvesting the vegetables we have grown so watch out on Friday afternoons for free veg to take home!



## Holiday Dates Consultation

The Local Authority is currently consulting on School Holiday and Term Time dates for 2019/20 – 2022/23. Details of the consultation can be found on the NCC Website

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-holidays-and-closures/consultation-on-school-term-time-dates>

### Parking

Please be vigilant when parking outside of the school. We encourage all parents to use the Children's Centre car park opposite the school and would like to remind you that it is illegal to park on the zig zag lines.

### Equipment/Bikes/Scooters

Please can we remind you that children are not permitted to play with playground equipment before or after school (this includes the playhouse and climbing frames). You are responsible for your child at these times and we ask that you do not allow them to play on the equipment.

We encourage children to come to school on bikes and scooters, however we do ask that **all** bikes/scooters (including adults and older siblings) be pushed rather than ridden whilst on school grounds to prevent accidents.



### Cooking

We will continue to include cooking/baking in school on a regular basis but as you can understand this can be a costly activity. We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £1 per child per term in order to cover the costs. Please could you give this to the class teacher. Thank you.



### Child Safety

Please can we remind you that children should be accompanied to and collected from school each day by an adult (over 16). Our pupils should not be coming to school on their own and will not be dismissed to anyone under 16.

### Photographs

Braiswick photographers will be on site again on 10<sup>th</sup> October for Individual and Family photographs. As in previous years, you are able to have a family photograph with older and/or younger siblings **who do not attend** our school if you come in at **8.00am**.

We will photograph all siblings that do attend our school/nursery in school time so you do not need to come in early.



### Safeguarding

We take the safety of the children in our care seriously at John T. Rice and do all that we can to safeguard them from harm. I would just like to remind you that if you have any safeguarding concerns you should pass them on to myself (the Designated Person for Child Protection) or Mrs Smith (the Deputy Designated Person).

Please can we remind parents that putting photographs of children who are not your own onto social networking sites is not permitted. We have a number of children in our school in sensitive situations and parents in confidential jobs that could be compromised if their pictures are made public. We would like to thank you for your cooperation.

### Breakfast & After School Clubs

We have a Breakfast Club in school open to all our full time children from 8.00am each day. The cost is £1.50 payable on the day. For that the children will get juice, toast and cereal as well as games/activities until the start of school. After School Club runs from Mon-Thurs, 3.15-4.00pm. The cost is £1 (although free to those in receipt of Pupil Premium), payable on the day. For that the children get a variety of activities as well as juice and a biscuit.

Please book in at the school office at least the day before to ensure we have adequate staffing in place..