

ORRITOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

September / October 2018

Welcome to a new academic year and the start of a new term!

Parents Support Group

A meeting of this group will be held in the school in early October, once all the nursery children have started. Therefore to facilitate parents this will take place on

Tuesday October 9th 2018

At 7.00 pm

This group have been very effective over the years in raising much needed funds for the school. It would be great to see a good turn out at this meeting to register your support. The group usually organise 2 or 3 events per year.

All new and existing parents are asked to come along and will be made very welcome.

Dinner money -

Please ensure that the correct dinner money for the whole week is sent with your child on Monday when ordering meals for the week. Currently this is now £2.60 per day (£13 per week). Nursery children pay £2.50 per day (£12.50 per week) - plus £2.50 snack money = £15 in total

PLEASE NOTE: Please make cheques payable to ; ***Education Authority***

Money envelopes are available from the school office - **£4** for 40

Parent Interviews

Our parent interviews will take place for all pupils on the week commencing **October 22nd**

Please Note; School will finish for all pupils on these days (22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th) at 1.00pm. to allow time for interviews to take place. Please note – there will be no buses home at this time.

These interviews will hopefully give us an early indication of any concerns, which you may have and also give you an idea of the progress your child is making. In addition any child about whom we are concerned will have completed a standardised test by this stage, which will help us diagnose any problems at an early stage.

Contact Numbers

If you have changed your mobile phone number recently, changed jobs, or have different contacts for emergency use, let us know. An email address may be useful too.

Since Emergency Closure Information is now sent out by text, it is important that the person to receive this text has the capability to do so, and is listed as the FIRST point of contact.

Health disclosures – Remember to update us if there are any medical issues you feel we should know about, or if existing ones have altered.

After school Clubs - Again it is hoped to offer some activities to P4 - 7 children after school during the week. Obviously ***numbers will have to be taken into consideration*** but while we cannot ***guarantee*** places for every activity, we shall do the best we can to ensure as many as possible benefit from attending. We will be offering Football, Hockey and Netball during the first term. Parents will be notified. This year we will be charging **£2 for first choice activity and £1 per additional activity** each week to cover costs.

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After school club – (P1 – 3) Following on from last year, we are having ‘Rugbytots’ in during the first term. This is a programme for both boys and girls – it is based on skill acquisition for catching, throwing, hand/eye co-ordination, kicking (so no gum shields or tackling!). We had sessions last year and the children all enjoyed it, so we want to follow up on this. Fliers for this should have been sent to you already.

Open Morning

Following the success of the last 3 years’ events, we plan to have an ‘Open Morning’ on **Friday 9th November**. Parents will be encouraged to visit our Nursery and our Primary classrooms to see the school in operation, followed by a cup of tea or coffee. This will also be an opportunity for prospective parents to view our Nursery and Primary One facilities. Please plan to attend if possible.

Christmas Concert The *Provisional* date for this is **Tues 18th December (morning and evening performances)** More details to follow.

School Savings Scheme

This year we have again decided to run the savings scheme in conjunction with Fairhill and District Credit Union. If you wish your child to participate in this scheme, please ask the school for an application form. P1 will be given these home automatically.

School trip

It is hoped to run a school trip again this year **8th – 11th April to Edinburgh**. This will be open to those pupils in P7 this year. Inclusion on the trip is reliant upon a good disciplinary record during the year and successful completion of schoolwork. Like past school trips, in order to cut costs, we will travel along with 2 other schools. We will communicate further with those parents concerned when we have more details - in the meantime if you have any queries please contact me.

Book Fair 8th – 14th November What better way to encourage your child to read, buy Christmas presents and support school funds?

A few ‘housekeeping’ points.....

Parking

Please keep the main entrance gates to the school free of vehicles at all times as buses need to use them at both morning and afternoon drop-off times. This also presents a road safety problem for other drivers and pedestrians (including children). If a childminder or other relative does the school run, please inform them of this. **To ease traffic congestion, please move on once your child has safely entered school.**

Punctuality

Just a reminder that, for insurance and supervision purposes, **children should not arrive in school before 8.45am** . **They are not supervised until 8.45am.**

They should arrive between 8.45 - 9am. In order that lessons and Assemblies are not disrupted, we would ask that all children are left off, punctually, **by 9am** each morning. Pupils arriving after registration receive a late mark on their record.

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Attendance

In order for a child to have full attendance, they must be in school in time for registration, and attend both the morning and afternoon sessions. A note explaining any absences should be sent in on the child's first day of return to school – otherwise this is recorded as 'Unexplained' absence and this may be followed up by attendance officers.

Collecting children at 1.45pm

Could parents / childminders/ relatives, whoever is lifting your child please come across to the class lines to collect them, rather than have the children running from the line to the far side of the playground or gate. Teachers and classroom assistants need to verify who the children go home with, so please approach them to let them know who the child is leaving with.

Snacks.

Breaktime snacks will be available to purchase from the kitchen staff **from 1st October** onwards (until March). 30p per item. More information will be sent out later.

Please Note; This year we have children with severe allergy to nuts.

With this in mind, we have declared the school a 'NUT FREE ZONE'.

We would therefore ask parents to co-operate with us on this important medical issue by not sending nuts or products containing nuts (or traces of nuts) to school for break or lunchtime snacks.

We are also advised that birthday cakes should not be sent in as there is no guarantee that they are nut free. Children will be asked not to share their food with others.

Many thanks for your anticipated co-operation.

Use of Mobile Phones.

The use of mobile phones by children within school is prohibited.

We are also aware that mobile phones have the facility to capture images and, in some cases, access the internet, therefore ***we do not encourage their use on school premises at anytime.***

If there is any genuine need for parents to be contacted during school hours, the school will contact them. Parents may decide to send mobile phones with the children for use ***outside*** of school hours (eg to contact parents in emergencies after school or from a carer's home etc). If this is the case then these phones should **be switched off until school has ended.**

The school will not be held responsible for loss or damage to these phones.

Free School Meals

If you think you are entitled to Free School Meals please make sure you claim for them, even if your child takes a packed lunch. Not only will you benefit from this but the school also receives money for every child receiving them. Contact Education Authority 02837512200 or the school for information.

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Homework Policy – a summary.

Depending on the individual child's ability the average homework time should vary between 5 - 30 minutes in the early years and there should be a progression from the purely oral work to a combination of oral and written work, to a maximum of 40 mins in P3/4.

In Key Stage 2 there will be an increase in the time required for homework, with a minimum of 30 minutes. By Primary 7 homework should be increased in length, but should still be satisfactorily completed within a period of between 30 minutes and one hour.

The child should be provided with a suitable, comfortable working environment where the child is free from distractions such as TV, radio, and other children if possible. Parents should ensure that this homework time is supervised and productive. Very few children will work continuously unsupervised and therefore may not have the work complete in the recommended time.

We would ask parents to ensure that the child does not spend much more than the recommended time (for the pupil's age) doing homework. If parents are happy that the child has worked *studiously* during the homework period, we would ask that the parent makes a short note, in pencil, on the homework or in the child's homework diary at that point, confirming that the proper time was spent attempting it, rather than have the child dwell over it excessively.

School Closures 2018/19 (including staff training days)

October parent interviews ; School finishes for all pupils on these days (22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th) at 1.00pm. to allow interviews to take place. No buses available at 1pm

Hallowe'en Holidays- 26th October – 4th November inclusive (incl staff training day). Back 5th Nov.

Christmas Holidays – Finish Friday 21st December at 11am - Monday 7th. January 9am (includes staff training day)

Closures 2019

Parent Interviews ; 11th – 15th February inclusive ; school closes at 1.00pm for all children. No buses available at 1pm.

February Half term 18th and 19th Feb

March Monday 18th

Easter – close 11am Wednesday 17th April and reopening Tuesday 30th April at 9am. (includes staff training days)

May - 6th and 27th May Bank Holidays plus 28th and 29th May (includes staff training day)

June –

Prize Day Tuesday 25th June

Finishing on 28th June 2019.

**There may be slight changes to this list as other staff training dates are confirmed.
Please keep this newsletter somewhere prominent for easy reference.**

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