

Name: _____

Class: _____

FLIXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

14th September 2018

Dear Parents

May I take this opportunity to welcome you all to Flixton Primary School at the start of our new academic year, in particular those parents who are joining us for the first time – thank you for choosing our school. This will be the longest letter of the year but a very important one – so please persevere to the end!

The children as a whole have made an excellent start to the new school year, demonstrating to all their manners, excellent attitudes and a real determination to do well.



Children are looking very smart, but please ensure that all clothing is clearly named, as we had a tremendous amount of unclaimed lost property at the end of last year that had to be thrown away again – an expense and inconvenience we really want to avoid. **Lost property will be kept for half a term only** – the first week of each new half term will be '**last chance**' week when everything will go – uniform, bags, coats, shoes, umbrellas, swimming kits etc. etc. **Sadly this is the only way** Mr Lovelace, our site manager, can keep on top of things.

Morning and afternoon routines are settling down well with only a few latecomers arriving after the start of the school day. If you are running a little late, please use the Department main entrances, as gates to playground areas will be locked. It does occasionally rain in our fair city, so it would be appreciated if children arrive from 8:45, so that they are not waiting around in poor weather for too long before doors open.



If your child is going to be absent from school, please ring us to let us know before 10am on the day. If we haven't heard from you by then, we will contact you. All absences need to be explained by a letter when your child returns to school. Please try to remember to send the note in when your child is well enough to be back in – it makes administering the registers much easier!

The Infant Department end of day procedure is now being established – it really helps children if whoever is collecting your child at the end of the day stands in the same place – it makes it much easier to spot you! In the Junior Department, class teachers stagger the departures from the cloakrooms and see the children out safely. If children cannot find their adult, they are told to come back to the cloakroom entrance where members of staff will be. If you would be kind enough to re-emphasise this message, it would be greatly appreciated. If I could also ask that small children, prams, buggies,



cycles (no dogs, please) are under your close supervision at all times, that would also be appreciated. Occasionally some small children disrupt the end of the school day by shouting through classroom windows. We expect **all** children on our playground at the end of the school day to be properly supervised and controlled – it's only fair on the classes still learning in our school.

Please make sure that children know who will be collecting them if there is a change to their normal routine. If you are delayed unexpectedly, a phone call to school prior to the end of the school day (3:15 for the Infant Department; 3:30 for the Junior Department) will enable us to advise your child of change of arrangements. **We are here to help.**

MARDALE AVENUE AND DELAMERE ROAD – NO CAR ACCESS PLEASE!

Bringing cars down Mardale Avenue and Delamere Road is **dangerous**. I **contact Trafford's Parking Services on a regular basis, and I will, without hesitation, report drivers who create a danger for our children with reckless manoeuvres or illegal parking.** Please heed the warning before the fines and points on the licence appear. We are trying to keep all our children safe. I could also point out, as I have done before, that children do not rust, or shrink, when it rains, and I would prefer them a little bit wet to a little bit run over; but those of you with a modicum of common sense and consideration already know that and don't attempt to park right outside the school gates because it is raining.

I would ask that parents do not seek to police the roads themselves – some of our parents have requested the school's understanding of their need to park close to, or in, school grounds because of medical conditions that make extended walking difficult. We are happy to allow this to happen and are aware of those cars.

I have been contacted this week by a resident of Delamere Road, whose car was damaged by another car at the end of the school day on Friday. What is particularly disappointing is that not only have we asked for cars not to come down the road, but that the driver whose car caused the damage did not see fit to leave their details. Needless to say, I have asked Parking Services to increase their presence.

For their health and their safety we ask that children walk down Mardale Avenue or Delamere Road and, preferably, make the whole journey on foot. Not only is this safer (fewer cars!), but it is also healthier. As the days shorten reflective clothing and bags are common sense – please help us to keep our children safe.

OFFICE ENQUIRIES



The front office team will be able to answer most queries either by phone (748-5141 – option 1 for the Infant Department, and option 2 for the Junior Department) or in the office – or they will find someone who can! Members of staff will be in the playground at the end of the day as the children are leaving to answer queries, pass on messages, make arrangements etc. For obvious security reasons we ask that adults only access the building via the office entrance not the pupil cloakroom doors. Thank you.

CONTACT DETAILS UPDATE

A letter has gone out already asking for you to inform the office of any changes to contact details, addresses and medical conditions. Please could I ask for you to not forget, if there any changes, to let us know as soon as possible so we can update our records. Many thanks for your help with this.



TEACHING STAFF

The deployment of teachers for this academic year is as follows:

Nursery	Mrs S Carr
Reception	Mrs K O'Grady and Miss H Bermingham
Y1	Mrs G Bateman and Mrs H Young
Y2	Mrs C Johnson (Deputy Head), Mrs B Kirke and Mrs C Moore (SENCo)
Y3	Miss K Harris and Miss T Patel
Y4	Miss H Freeman (Deputy Head), Miss N Latham and Mrs S Easter
Y5	Miss S Buckley Hall and Miss A Lannon
Y6	Mrs S Spence (Safeguarding Lead) and Mrs J Foster

This term's **parents' evening** will be held on **Thursday 29th November** but in the meantime if you have information to share or any concerns please contact individual class teachers to arrange a meeting or telephone communication as appropriate.

DIARY DATES

You will be notified separately of class and year group visits and visitors. School dates for your diary so far:



- FPS Open Classroom Wednesday 19th September
- Jeans For Genes Day Friday 21st September
- Year 6 STEM Day at Wellacre Academy/Flixton Girls' School Friday 28th September
- Flu Vaccinations (R to Y5) Tuesday 9th October
- Family Photographs Tuesday 30th October
- Book Fair Week 31st October – 5th November
- FPS Open Classroom Tuesday 13th November
- Y2 Violin Assembly Wed 28th November (10 am)
- Parents' Evening Thursday 29th November
- Year 1 and 2 Nativity Friday 7th December
- Reception Carols and Songs Friday 14th December (am)
- Carols on the Playground Friday 14th December (pm)

Our first parent event will be held next **Wednesday 19th September** – the first FPS Open Classroom event, from the end of the school day until 4pm. Further details are attached.

Our first charity event of this academic year is **Jeans For Genes** day, which will be next **Friday 21st September**. The name is a bit of a clue, but if children don't have jeans, they can wear whatever they like in return for a small donation (£1) for a very worthy cause.

PARENTAL SUPPORT

I would ask for your continued support relating to attendance, punctuality, prompt payment of dinner money, homework, uniform – particularly footwear, jewellery, hairstyles, tailored skirts, correct school trousers, PE kit etc. so teachers and support staff can focus on delivering the very best our school has to offer.

Retailers constantly fight to corner the lucrative uniform market. Unable to provide the whole school uniform from two small offices we ask that parents support us in maintaining as consistent a standard as possible – the standard is plain, hardwearing, safe and appropriate for school use – not a fashion statement. We have in the past experienced the tight skirt, the short skirt, the slit skirt, the fleecy skirt, flared trousers, zipped, buckled, keyringed endless variations that are inappropriate. If parents are unsure please contact school or bring the clothing in before cutting the labels off. We are proud of our uniform and our safety record – correct shoes and P.E. kit are extremely important.



As well as being proud of our uniform, we are also extremely proud of the exemplary behaviour of our children. Our behaviour policy remains unchanged for this academic year, and is available from the school website for those who would like a copy. I would like to thank you for your continued support in our efforts to ensure that all children have the best possible learning environment, free from disruption.

Later this term, the school will be launching its brand new website, complete with a Parents' area and an app that can be downloaded to your smartphone. This will ensure you receive notifications and letters, without having to worry about what's at the bottom of the bag! As we roll the site out, we will be seeking to use other features too, including online Parents' Evening booking and an online payment system. More news on that once we are ready to go live.

I warned you it was a long one! Thank you for persevering right to the end and I look forward to seeing you at one of our many events during what promises to be another lively, happy and exciting year.



Mr J Redmond
Headteacher