

Name: _____

Class: _____

FLIXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

24th September 2019

Dear Parents

Time flies at the start of the academic year - 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 by far the longest letter of the year but it contains lots of very important information – so please keep reading!

The children as a whole have made an excellent start to the new school year. They are taking great pride in demonstrating the Four Bs across every area of school – being ready, being respectful, being responsible and believing in themselves. It has been a pleasure to see the positive start they have made to their new year.



Part of that excellent start is that they 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 we can keep on top of things.

PE kit is part of school uniform too, and is very simple – navy blue shorts, a plain white T-shirt and suitable footwear. Football kits or fancy T-shirts are not PE kit. Please make sure your child has their correct PE kit in school when they need it.

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 Manchester, 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 – IT'S GOING TO BE LITERALLY FINE (HOPEFULLY SOON)

We are awaiting news for Trafford Council about whether Delamere Road and Mardale Avenue are to be given 'School Street' status. This will effectively pedestrianise the two roads before the start of the school day and at the end, and anyone driving down the road without an exemption (only available for residents and Blue Badge holders) will be issued with a Penalty Notice. Obviously, we are delighted that this is being considered as we have consistently told parents that bringing cars down Mardale Avenue and Delamere Road is dangerous, and we have been equally consistently ignored by a small minority for whom the slight inconvenience of having to walk a little further far outweighs the obviously even slighter inconvenience of running over a child. I will update you as and when I receive more news about this from the Council.

In the meantime, another gentle reminder we are trying to keep all our children safe. Please use some common sense – keep your car off Mardale Avenue and Delamere Road.

I would also 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.

Fewer car journeys and more walking will help everybody, and our planet too. 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 are any changes (including if you wish to change existing photo permissions) please 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	Miss H Bermingham
Reception	Mrs K O'Grady and Mrs S Carr
Y1	Mrs G Bateman and Mrs H Young
Y2	Mrs C Johnson (Deputy Head), Miss G Boyle and Miss A Livesley
Y3	Miss K Harris and Miss K Ward
Y4	Miss N Latham and Miss A Lannon
Y5	Miss H Freeman (Deputy Head), Mrs R Kirke (SENCo) and Miss S Buckley Hall
Y6	Mrs S Spence (Safeguarding Lead) and Mrs J Foster

This term's **parents' evening** will be held on **Thursday 5th December** 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 25th September
- Macmillan Coffee Morning Friday 27th September
- Year 6 STEM Day at Wellacre Academy/Flixton Girls' School Friday 27th September
- Flu Vaccinations (R to Y6) Thursday 10th October
- Family Photographs Tuesday 29th October
- FPS Open Classroom Tuesday 13th November
- Parents' Evening Thursday 5th December
- Reception Carols and Songs Friday 6th December (am)
- Class 1B and 2L Nativity Thursday 12th December (am)
- Class 1Y and 2JB Nativity Friday 13th December (am)
- Carols on the Playground Friday 13th December (pm)

Our first parent event will be held on **Wednesday 25th September** – the first FPS Open Classroom event, from the end of the school day until 4pm.

We are delighted to be holding our first charity event of this academic year, which is **Macmillan Coffee Morning** this **Friday 27th September**. Mrs Tatham and her band of adult volunteers will be hosting the event – parents and grandparents are most welcome to visit the Junior Department hall between 9:00 and 11:00 for tea, coffee and cakes, all for a very worthwhile 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. I would also just like to comment that we cannot administer cough sweets or medicines for children – such medicines should not be in school. We have over 462 children – you can perhaps appreciate the potential chaos that ‘minor ailment’ medication would cause.

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.



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