

Name: _____

Class: _____

FLIXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

7th February 2020

Dates of interest for the term so far are:

**Tuesday 25th and
Wednesday 26th February** Dignity Day (Infant Department)

Monday 2nd March Open Classroom - 3:15 – 3:45 Infant Dept.
3:30 – 4:00 Junior Dept.

From Wednesday 11th March Book Fair (Letter to follow)

Thursday 12th March Class Photographs

Thursday 19th March Parents' Evening

Tuesday 24th March Year 2 Ocarina Concert



Provisional term dates for the next academic year (2020/21) have been posted on the school website.

Sponsored Event 2020

This year's FPS Sponsored Grounds Event is an environmentally themed one. Thank you to all of you who have sent in plastic bottles – we now have enough for everyone, so it's back to putting them in the black bins. Our school's Eco-Committee is hard at work organising the activities with the help of Mr Moulton, and preparations are well advanced. Sponsor forms will be coming home – please sponsor your child to complete the activities, and then ask others to do the same. The money raised will go to continuing to develop our grounds areas.

A reminder of the dates:

Thursday 27th February Reception; Year 1; Year 4 and Year 5

Thursday 5th March Nursery; Year 2; Year 3 and Year 6



Junior Department Gate

I have needed to alter the start of day procedures in the Junior Department this term. This is in response to a large number of children arriving at school well before the start of the school day, and long before any adult supervision is available. Parents of many of those children have been spoken to, but to no avail.

The decision has been made, therefore, to only allow access to the Junior Department at 8:45am, when the playground doors are opened. This is ten minutes before the bell goes to signal the start of the Junior Department day, and fifteen minutes before the start of the Infant Department day. This should allow everyone plenty of time to move between the two Departments if they need to, and certainly gives Junior children plenty of time to come into school, get settled and be ready for the start of their learning.

The ideal scenario would be that children arrive when the gate is open and go straight in, so I would ask that children do not arrive for school before 8:45am. As I have said many times before, there is no need for them to be here before then, and there is no supervision before then.



Sometimes it needs to be said...

Over the last few weeks, for various reasons (training courses, professional development and the like), our school has welcomed many visitors from other schools. It is a source of enormous pride that these visitors are universal in their praise of our children, their conduct, their respectfulness and their work. Sometimes, in our busy jobs, we need to just take a moment and admire what our children are capable of, how they are as young people and what they produce with their efforts. There are amazing examples of what our children achieve on our website class pages, and I urge you to have a browse and be as impressed and proud as I am.

And because of that...

Our children are amazing, but sometimes they need a bit of help. Around half of all adult mental health issues begin in childhood, and nearly 10% of children between the ages of 5 and 10 experience mental health problems. Those statistics are shocking in themselves, but they do not account for those children who need support for a host of other reasons on a shorter term basis – family breakdown, or changes in circumstances for example. It is with these issues firmly in our thoughts that we are actively fundraising to create a specific space in school where children who need to can go to be calm and comforted. We have identified the old front office in the Infant Department as a perfect space to utilise to create a sensory room, and our brilliant PTA have already begun to raise funds for a space that would be a massive benefit to the whole school.

We have used Crowdfunder as this allows us to access grants from Aviva, and also gives companies who might support us a more formal basis for donating. Please don't be shy – have a look at

<https://acf.crowdfunder.co.uk/building-safe-spaces-for-children>

to see what we are trying to create, and if you can, please consider donating to help us reach our target, or share our Crowdfunder with your boss, or your relatives, or anyone who might be interested. Every little bit will help us, and importantly, will really help our children.



I hope you and your family have a restful and relaxing half term break.

Mr Redmond
Headteacher