12.09.14

Dear Parents/Carers.

Welcome to Holy Family or, for twenty of our families, should I say welcome back to Foundation Stage. Your child has now started their seven year learning journey at Holy Family School. As part of that learning journey we like to keep you informed every step of the way.

This year, we are aiming to become paper free. This will mean that after today we intend to email all correspondence to you unless we need you to reply. To make this possible please ensure that we have your correct email address on the contact details sheet, which has been sent home tonight. If this is not suitable for you, please let us know and we will send the letters to you in your child’s book bag.

In the Reception class we like to document your child’s learning experiences and share them with you. These will also be emailed to you through the 2 Simple APP, Build a Profile. I will be emailing you an invitation to activate this link as soon as I have all your email addresses. Please click on confirm and you will then be able to receive your child’s learning experiences.

Please read through them and feel free to respond back to us via this link. If you need to get in touch with me for any other reason you can email me at the school email address.

Each day, the children will have a Letters and Sounds, Literacy and Maths session, with RE during the week. Other subjects such as Understanding of the World, are incorporated into the Continuous Provision, in which children learn through play directed by their own interests.

For this term, the children will begin their RE topic on ‘Myself’. They will also be learning about William Shakespeare and will become familiar with his story of ‘The Tempest’. Towards the end of this term they willbe hearing about how we are made to feel welcome and how we are welcomed into God’s Family through Baptism.

You will shortly be invited into school for a cup of coffee and a chat, where you will be given an opportunity to meet with me and ask any questions and to discuss the planned curriculum for this term and hear about my expectations for your child. The date for this meeting will be given out next week.

Below is a list of things I will be talking about at the meeting.

Our Religious Education Programme

The programme is called ‘Come and See’. We will be studying the three themes of Domestic Church (Family), Baptism and Confirmation (Belonging) and Advent & Christmas (Loving). The children will also spend one week studying Judaism.

Punctuality/Absence

The children should line up at 8.55am on the playground, unless it is raining heavily, in which case, classroom doors will be opened a little earlier. It is your responsibility to supervise them up until this point. Any child arriving after the class has entered the classroom at 8.55am needs to go to the main door to be signed in by Mrs Glanvill or Mrs Campbell. If for any reason your child is absent from school, please contact us to let us know. If we do not hear from you, Mrs Featherstone, our Learning Mentor, will ring to find out why your child is absent.

If you need to collect your child at any time in the day for an appointment, could you please report to the office and your child will be collected from their classroom.

Behaviour - Our Values in Reception/Year One

We have started the year together this year discussing 6 key values that we believe will shape the year to come. They are as follows:

**Listen Wait No**

**Quiet Come Care**

The children have suggested some fantastic explanations for what these words mean in the setting and how we can use them. Perhaps you can discuss them with your child at home and what they will mean for us in the classroom.

Praising and Rewarding

Throughout the school day children are encouraged and praised. Praising good behaviour, good work, good manners, and caring for others helps to reinforce the message to all children. We have a class dog called Floppy who is given out at home time each night to a child chosen by staff as ‘Our Star of the Day’. Floppy has to be returned the next day. Our Shakespeare puppet is given out on a Friday to ‘Our Star of the Week’. Sparkle our beat baby is given out to whoever he chooses to go to that day!!!!

PE

The children will have 1 hour of P.E every week after Christmas. This amount of regular exercise is vitally important; therefore please ensure that they have full PE kit in school at all times. If your child doesn’t have a PE kit, they will be offered a school kit from a bank of spares that parents have donated. A letter will also be sent home if they do not have their kit.

Uniform

Please make sure that your child has the correct school uniform and that all items of uniform including shoes, wellies, coats and book bags are clearly marked with your child’s name to prevent items getting lost. It is also easier for your child if they have something personal attached to their book bag and school coat, to make it more identifiable, such as a key ring.

Also, please ensure that long hair is tied back at all times and jewellery such as earrings are not worn during school time.

Dinner Menus

Every Monday we will send home your child’s lunch menu for the following week. Please return this with your choices clearly marked as soon as possible. Please make sure that your child is aware that we are unable to change the choices that you have made.

If you decide that your child is to have a packed lunch please try to pack a healthy lunch wherever possible.

As part of a Government initiative, I am sure you are all aware that school dinners are now free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The meals are provided by Knowsley Schools Meals Service who ensure children are given a nutritious meal. Strict guidelines are followed to ensure all meals provided are healthy and develop children’s awareness of healthy eating.

Water Bottles

Please send a water bottle into school as your child can access fresh water throughout the day. The water bottles need to have your child’s name clearly labelled. The water bottle will be sent home each Friday; please return on Monday morning.

Snack Money.

This is collected at the start of each term. Children recieve a healthy snack every day. The cost of this is £1.50 per week. As this term is a 7 week term, snack money will be £10.50.

Please put any snack money into an envelope with your child’s name on it and the total amount paid and put it in to your child’s school bag. Please do not hand in money to the staff or the office staff.

We do check their bags every morning and remove any envelopes or letters.

Wellies.

The children need a pair of wellies to wear in the outside area; these must have your child’s name inside and must be kept in school.

Reading

RARARA (Read Aloud, Read Along, Read Alone) books will be changed on a Monday and Friday from Monday September 15th. A poem or a rhyme will be sent home along with maths homework every Friday. You are invited to come into the school hall at 8.45 on Monday and Friday to help your child to choose their RARARA book. A reading diary will be given to each child and kept in their RARARA bag for you to put in any comments about the book you and your child have been reading.

I will discuss the use of RARARA books and poems and rhymes fully during the coffee afternoon.

Letters and Sounds

For the first six weeks the children will be working within Phase 1 of Letters and Sounds. They will be learning to listen, hear rhymes and alliteration and will learn to orally blend and segment. After half term we will start Phase 2, this is when your children will be introduced to initial letter sounds and names and will learn to segment and blend words.

Education City and Mathletics

We have now put the password to Education City inside your child’s reading diary. This will enable you to access Education City at home. This is an interactive resource that we also use in school. A Mathletics password is also included in the reading diary; your child will become more familiar with this program in class as the year progresses.

Maths

Maths homework is usually a practical activity to do at home over the weekend. Please do try to do this with your child as it reinforces work we have done during the week. If you would like to make a comment or take some photos we would be grateful of any evidence of their learning at home.

HomeLearning Stories.

If you want to tell us about your weekend or share some photos with us we would be delighted. Please send them through the 2 Simple app, Pic Collage or the Story Creator app to my email address already mentioned earlier. I will be explaining the use of these apps at the coffee morning.(Will you be showing parents how to use these because some may panic!?)

Questions and appointments

If you have any worries or issues you would like to discuss about your child please feel free to call me in school. It is, however, very hard to discuss issues at 8:55am when I am collecting the children from the playground or at 3:15pm when I am dismissing the children but of course will arrange an appointment at a suitable time for any issues to be discussed further.

Newsletters

Information and any reminders will be given out via our class newsletter on a Friday. This will inform you of things that we have been doing in class during that week and remind you of anything coming up the following week. We do hope you enjoy reading it and finding out what the children have been busy with. You will also be sent by email a weekly school newsletter.

Trip to the Brindley

We are taking the children on a class trip to The Brindley Theatre in Runcorn to watch ‘The Princess and the Pea, a new fantastical adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen’s classic, which the children will also be learning about and exploring in school.

The trip is organised for Wednesday 15th October. The coach will collect the children at 12.30pm and arrive back at school ready for the usual home collection time.

We do have limited places available for parents to accompany us. Please let us know by Monday 15th September if you would like to come with us. The cost of this trip is £10.00 each for both children and adults. Please fill in the attached permission and payment slip and return to school in an envelope by Friday 3rd October.

And finally

I appreciate that this is a long letter and would like to reassure you that I will discuss the contents further at our meeting but, in the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns about your child please do not hesitate to contact me in school. I am available from 8.00am until 8.30am every morning and after school from 3.30pm until 4.30pm.

We look forward to working with you and having a great year with your children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Evans, Ms Connolly and Miss Langton

P.S Don’t forget to check your emails!!!!

Dates for Diary

Coffee and chat with Mrs Evans date to follow next week.

Trip to the Brindley Wednesday 15th October 12.30pm

Permission Slip for The Brindley Theatre

Please return by Monday 15th September. If too many wish to come we will draw names out of a hat.

I would like to / I am unable to accompany you to the Brindley Theatre on Wednesday 15th October

Child’s Name

Parents Signature

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I give my permission for

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to go

to the Brindley Theatre on Wednesday 15th October.

I have enclosed £10.00 (For 1 child ticket)

I have enclosed £20.00 (For 1 child and 1 adult ticket)