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Old Church C.E. (C) Primary School  
School Street  
Darlaston  
Wednesbury  
WS10 8DL  
0121 568 6329  
Headteacher: Ms D Clacy

Dear Parents

### January 2018 Newsletter

A belated Happy New Year! I can't believe that we are at the end of January already. I had hoped that all the nasty bugs would have gone over Christmas but unfortunately, both staff and children are still suffering. I have taken advice from the Health Agencies about closing school, cleaning routines etc which we are adhering to but hopefully as the weather improves the bugs will disappear.

#### Attendance

The Government sets a target that children have to be in school for 96% of the time. We are closely monitored by the local authority who visit every Monday to check on every child's attendance. If the child's attendance drops below 96% a letter will be sent out. These are generated by the Local Authority and it is just an awareness raising that your child's attendance is in danger of dropping below the national requirement. We know that children catch bugs and as long as we can evidence that you have phoned or let us know about your child's illness this is generally the last you will hear from them. If it continues to drop you may then receive a visit from the Education Welfare Officer or invites to meetings. He is there to support you on getting your child to school.

If a child has 5 days absence or more they will be asked to provide medical evidence for any absences to be authorised.

May I also remind you that children should be in their classroom by 8:50 when doors are closed. Any child who arrives between 8:50 and 9:00 will get a late mark. Any child who arrives after 9:00 will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

#### The Pitch

I hope that you like the pitch. It is lovely to look out and see a green area in school which the children really love playing on it. To keep the pitch in excellent condition for as long as possible the children have been told that they are not allowed to go on it in their school shoes. They must change into their trainers/ pumps.

The area by the Ralph Bayley House is being resurfaced on Monday. Again we are putting artificial grass down and making it into a quiet seating area for the children to use. I have shown Mr Spittle some designs for some funky chairs, which I have asked him to have a go at making for us. Watch this space! I also haven't forgotten that we need some big play equipment for KS2 and plans are already underway for this.

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Walsall Metropolitan Borough Education Services



## Two Form Entry

Meetings for two form entry are coming fast and furious at the moment which is exciting for the future of the school. I have already returned the initial 2 drawings from the architects as I do not want any building work taking place on the playground. Planning permission is about to be submitted with most of the internal work taking place over the summer. The main work will take longer and will be to the front of the school where the main offices will be relocated. This will mean disruption but I will let you know nearer the time how we will continue to work. The plans I have asked for means that the school can still operate without having to close. We will experience some minor disruption but the long term benefits will outweigh this.

## New Staff

Just to let you know that Mrs Thomason (Deputy Head) and Mr Martin (Upper Key Stage Leader) will be starting school after Easter. Both members of staff are very excited and are already working with me on plans for the future.

## E Safety

We have had another warning today about inappropriate messages being sent to children through Instagram to a pupil in a school very near to us. I cannot stress enough how many of these alerts I get throughout the term. Please monitor your child's use of social media stringently.

## Spring Term 2018

1.2.17 Science trip to Symphony Hall- Group with Mr Wilkinson

19.2.18- 23.2.18- Half Term

26.2.18- Book Week

1.3.18- Year 5s to Grace Academy to meet Susan Price author

2.3.18- Book character dress up day

20.3.18- Parents' Evening

22.3.18- Parents' Evening

22.3.18- Year1 Trip to Tamworth Castle

23.3.18- Year 2 trip to Tamworth Castle

27.3.18- Easter Service 2pm

28.3.18- 9:15 Year 1 Easter Bonnet Parade

10:15 Year 2 Easter Bonnet Parade

30.3.18 Start of the Easter holidays

16.4.18 Return after Easter

3.5.18- Election at school- potential school closure

14.5.18- Year 6 SATs week.

14.5.18- Darryl Wakelam- artist to work with Year 3 and 4