



# Tividale Community Primary School

## Newsletter September 2015

### Welcome Back...

A warm welcome to the new school year. A special welcome to the parents, new children and new staff that have joined us at Tividale this month. It is great to announce that again Tividale Community Primary School is completely full in all year groups, with a waiting list of children whose parents want them to come to here. It is excellent to see that parents continue to recognise our high standards and are actively choosing to bring their children to our school.

Please note, school registration is at 8.55am, so do ensure your children are at school each day by that time to avoid being marked as late on the register.

We are looking forward to us all working together and having another successful year at Tividale.

### Parking

Please park considerately and safely to help protect our children...

Please also ensure that you do not park on, or cut through the school driveway as this becomes dangerous for the children with cars manoeuvring on the driveway and driving across the footpath. Whilst I recognise the difficulties and frustrations of parking at the end of the school day, please make every effort to consider the safety of our pupils.

You may have seen on the local news recently, that the police are now using a new parking camera van, which has Automatic Number Plate Recognition, and will take photos of illegally or dangerously parked cars around our local schools, and send tickets to homes. This is now in operation around Tividale and Oldbury.

May I also take this opportunity to remind parents that the school car park is for staff and official visitors only. Parents are not allowed to drive onto the premises at the start and end of the school day, except in an emergency. I would like to thank parents in advance for your support on this matter.

To help parents in this matter, the Gurdwara opposite, has kindly given us permission to invite parents to use their car park free of charge for school runs. The car park is on Britannia Street, the road directly opposite the school. We would encourage parents to take them up on this generous offer.

### School Library

Please be reminded that the School Library is now open from 3.30 - 3.45pm every afternoon for children that wish to change their school library books before their next class library session.



### Newsletters and Homework (Key Stage 1 and 2)

You will have noticed that this term we have introduced a new style of class newsletter. This will be going out to parents at the beginning of every term. We hope that you will find it much more informative about your child's class, their timetables, the work they will be doing and ways in which you can help your children at home.

Also, in your child's homework books, we have introduced a box for parents to sign, indicating the amount of help given to their child whilst completing the task. It's early days, but the feedback teachers are receiving so far has been really useful in helping them plan both work in the classroom and tasks to set for future homework. There is a feedback and comments slip attached to this newsletter and it would be appreciated if you could return it with your thoughts and comments on this new style of partnership working. Thank you.

### Black History Month

October brings us Black History Month. As always, children at Tividale will be carrying out various activities throughout the month to learn about different and age appropriate aspects of Black History. I look forward to seeing their finished pieces and will update you about the work and activities in next month's newsletter.

### Wet Mornings

On wet mornings children will be allowed into school at 8.45am when staff will be available to take responsibility for them. When mornings are wet, please try to ensure that children do not arrive in school before 8.45am. Key Stage 1 and Reception children should enter school through the door in the Key Stage 1 playground where a teacher will be on duty and Key Stage 2 children through the Year 3/4 door.

## Internet safety

Children at Tividale use a variety of devices upon which they can access the internet. This is a very important skill for children to learn, and it is vital that they can ensure they are safe online. To this end, your children will be taught, at age appropriate levels, the skills they need throughout the year as an integral part of our curriculum. You will be soon receiving a letter explaining more and including a sample copy of our Acceptable Use Policy which will have been shared and discussed in class and that all children are asked to sign by their class teachers.

## Healthy Lunch Boxes and snacks – Please no sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks!

It is very pleasing to see the majority of children having wholemeal bread, fruit, salad and fruit juice or water in their lunch boxes. To further develop our standing as a "healthy school" and to continue to encourage children to have a healthy diet and lifestyle, please remember sweets, chocolate bars and fizzy drinks are not allowed in school at any time during the school day. These should be seen as treats at the end of the school day or for special occasions.

At morning break time, children in Key Stage 1 are given a free healthy snack. Key Stage 2 children may bring in their own healthy snack such as a piece of fruit or a cereal bar. Children, up to the age of 5, are also given a drink of milk. Key Stage 2 children have the opportunity to buy from school, or bring in their own, carton of fresh orange juice. Children may also bring a named water bottle into class to drink during the day. Please note, children are not able to access their lunch boxes until lunch time, so any snack or water bottles for use at break times must be sent in separately. For further details, please contact a member of our office staff who will help you.

## Uniforms

Many thanks to all parents who ensure daily that their child attends school dressed appropriately in uniform. It is very important in creating a sense of belonging and community in our school, and children are very proud of looking smart. It was noted towards the end of last term, that a small number of children started to come to school in 'variations' of uniform. Problems may arise between children when they come to school dressing distinctly different from their friends; such as in the wrong coloured jumper or cardigan, brightly coloured trainers/shoes or having had a distinctive hairstyle! This causes children to stand out as different and in some cases, can contribute to lowered self-esteem. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school by providing a blue Tividale uniform for your child.

## Mobile Phones in school

Some of our older children who walk home without an adult are allowed to bring mobile phones into school, for safety reasons in getting to and home from school only. Please be aware that the children who do this **MUST** hand in their phones to the school office each morning, so that they can be put into the safe for the day. We cannot take any responsibility for mobile phones that are lost or damaged as a result of not being handed in. Please can you talk to your children about this to ensure they understand the expectations, and that they quickly get into the routine of handing in phones for safe keeping.

## Important Days/Dates

October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Y3 Eid Assembly</b>
15 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Police Surgery from 8.45am
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Harvest Festival
23 <sup>rd</sup>	School closes for half term
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	School re-opens
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	Y5&6 Residential Trip to Edmond Hall
5 <sup>th</sup>	Halloween Disco
13 <sup>th</sup>	Non- Uniform Day for Children in Need
20 <sup>th</sup>	Y5 Diwali Assembly



Signed:

(Headteacher) 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015