



# Tividale Community Primary School

## Newsletter September 2014

### 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.



### Collection of children from the Year 3 and 4 door

At this time of year, we tend to see a build-up of congestion at the end of school time around the Year 3 and 4 door. We appreciate that the space is limited and, over the past 5 years, we have looked into many ways to come up with a solution, but to no avail! We have even asked contractors to move the yellow gates down the drive to give a wider space in which parents can wait. This was not possible, due to gas pipework under the tarmac. Other suggestions have included allowing all the children to come out of the Year 5 and 6 door, but this meant that we would have had 240 pupils all coming out the same door, amongst parents, and this would not have been conducive to ensuring the safe dismissal of our pupils, not to mention the extra time it would take for the pupils to exit the building. Whilst we understand that this is not an ideal situation, we must work together to try to ease the congestion and make home time run as smooth as possible. To this end, please could we ask parents to try to stand back slightly, rather than to crowd around the yellow gates. This helps tremendously with teachers, pupils and parents being able to see each other, and therefore ensuring our pupils are safely dismissed from school. To try to help to allay your concerns, I can assure you, that in our experience, over the past few years the congestion eases after the first few weeks when the children and parents new to Y3, have become more familiar with the new routines. Thank you, and thank you for your patience during this period!

### 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 16 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening
17 <sup>th</sup>	Y3 Eid Assembly
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Harvest Festival
23 <sup>rd</sup>	School closes for half term
24 <sup>th</sup>	School Closed to pupils, Staff Training Day
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	School re-opens
4-7 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Workshops
6 <sup>th</sup>	Halloween Disco
14 <sup>th</sup>	Non- Uniform Day for Children in Need
21 <sup>st</sup>	Y5 Diwali Assembly
24- 28 <sup>th</sup>	Y5&6 Frank Chapman Residential Week



Signed:

(Headteacher) 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014