



## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Early closing on early on Thursday 3 December at 1 pm for P1-3 and 1.15 pm for P4-7 Pupils.

School will close for Christmas Holidays on Friday 18 December at 12 noon for P1-3 and 12.15pm for P4-7 children. School will re-open to pupils on 5 January 2021 for Term 2.

## 123 CLUB

New registration forms for 123 Club should be returned ASAP. Please note that we are planning to refund the 123 Club from March 2020 in the coming weeks. Money paid for week commencing 19 October can be deducted from November 123 Club – please note on the form.

## HEALTHY SNACK

November £4.80

December £3.90

If your child has chosen not to take part in the school healthy break initiative, we would remind parents that the snack brought to school must be nut free and low sugar and fat. We would suggest items of Fruit, raw vegetables, bread or crackers.

Crisps and chocolate bars are not seen as a healthy break.

## Royal British Legion

Poppies and stationary will be on sale in school week commencing 2 November. Items cost between 50p and £2

## P1 Open Afternoon for Prospective families Thursday 3 December 2020 3-6 pm



Appointment only for new families to receive a tour of the school. This will be in a very different format to our normal open night due to COVID 19 Restrictions. There will be no pupils in school and no activities available for visiting children. If you know of any new families wishing to find out more about our school or the P1 application process, please share these details with them. Appointments can be made via the school secretary Tel: 02879418415.

Welcome back to the second half of this autumn term. We hope you have all had a restful half term break and have stayed well.

To help us to keep everyone in our school community safe we would ask all parents dropping off children or collecting children in school grounds to please wear a face covering and maintain 2m social distancing. Children using the school bus are also being encouraged by DE to wear face coverings when on the school bus. If you haven't got a face mask for your child, please contact the school office and we may be able to provide some.

We want to do everything that we can to help to reduce the spread of Covid 19 and keep our school open for our children. Please help us to do the best that we can and remember to follow the PHA guidelines. If anyone in your household experiences symptoms remember that everyone in a household must isolate until a negative test result has been provided and symptoms have gone.

If your child is off school due to self-isolation but they are not sick, then you should contact the school office and the class teacher will provide work for them to complete at home remotely via 'The Seesaw App'.

If your child is sick, then you must follow the guidelines and they should remain at home until they are well again and have received a negative test result (if they had Covid 19 symptoms). Please read the DE leaflet for parents on the school website entitled, 'What Parents Need to Know' in the school news section.

## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 16-20 Nov 2020 'United Against Bullying'.

We will start the week with an 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday 16 Nov to mark the first day of Anti-Bullying Week.

Children should wear their uniform with odd socks on this day.

During this week we will be talking to the children about what makes a good friend and how we can be a good friend to everyone at school. We will address what bullying is and what to do if we feel that we are being bullied. We will remind the children to always treat others the way they want to be treated. We are looking forward to the P6 Anti-bullying assembly. We will be warning the children of the dangers of misusing digital technology. Parents should continue to monitor their child's use of the internet at home and ensure that they are using age appropriate games and sites. Thank you for encouraging positive behaviour and attitudes in your children.

## SCHOOL POLICY REMINDER 'CHRISTMAS PRESENTS IN SCHOOL'

***'Children are not allowed to bring Christmas presents into school to give out to their friends'***

If you wish to exchange presents, then please do so outside of school hours as upset may be caused to other children and items may be lost or broken in school. Christmas Cards cannot be exchanged in school this year due to COVID 19 restrictions. Thank you all for your understanding.

### CHRISTMAS 2020

Thinking ahead to Christmas preparations and following the advice of the Department of Education to reduce the number of items coming into and going home from school, as a staff we have decided to make a donation to charity this Christmas in lieu of Christmas gifts/cards to the children.

We appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity we receive from our families during this season. We all know how difficult things have been for charities during the pandemic. As an alternative to sending in gifts to staff members we thought it might be nice to make a donation to a charity of your choice if you wish to do so.

Since there can be no large gatherings at present we will be unable to hold our annual Christmas Concerts. This will be a disappointment for everyone in our school community. We will still plan to have a class party/treat for the children in their classrooms (more details to follow). At present we are unable to hold our whole school assemblies. However, classes will still have the chance to prepare and perform a class assembly for Mrs White and other classes via a recorded video.

### **2- 6 November 2020**

### **ECO/Pupil Council Elections**

This year due to Coronavirus we have decided to reduce the number of class representatives to one per class P4-7. This will make meeting in a socially distanced way more manageable in school. Please talk to your child about this experience and if they would like to be considered for the role help them to prepare for a short talk to present to their peers giving reasons why they would make a good class representative on the ECO or PUPIL Council.

### **11-12 November**

### **Cash for Clobber Collection**

We would like to encourage all families to use the recycling collection bin at the exit to the school traffic management system on the Oaklea road. Our school receives money each year from the donations made in this textile recycling bank. We appreciate these funds greatly and thank you all in advance for your donations.

### **P1 Applications for 2021**

The P1 Applications Portal will open for online applications on **Thursday 7 January 2021 at 12noon** and will close at **12 noon on 29 January 2021**. Please note that during the admissions procedure applications are not considered on a 'first come, first served basis'. However, when applying the criteria PUNCTUAL applications are considered before LATE applications are considered. The published application criteria of primary schools can be accessed at <https://www.eani.org.uk/>

**Ordering school photos?** If so, please visit [orders.coolforschoolphotography.com](https://orders.coolforschoolphotography.com) Enter your personal code, select your photos and make a payment. If you are unable to do this online, then you may return your order with the correct payment to the school **before 20 November 2020**.

Please continue to visit our school website for regular updates and news. If you have not yet registered for the School App Messaging service, please do so and you will receive notification when items have been added to the website.