



The High Street News 07/09/16

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely summer with your children, I am sure they have had a great time but it's that time of year again! Please read this newsletter carefully as it contains important information for you about the changes to the school over the summer break.

As ever if you would like to speak to myself or any of the teachers please make an appointment at the office.

Mrs L. Scott

New fencing, path, gates and Breakfast Club

As you can see we have had a pedestrian path, some gates and a fence fitted this summer this is due to the fact that many children were **not safe** in the car park in the mornings and after school. It was the first time the new gate and path was used and the timings were not correct for opening the main pedestrian gate. Apologies for this however we hoped to have solved this issue by the morning. The timings are controlled electronically and sometimes technology fails! We had to do something about the safety issue as it was becoming a real hazard and we also want to keep out anyone unrelated to the school at all times for everyone's safety.

So, the only way to access the school on foot now is via the fenced pathway. I know that I can count on your support with this as I am sure you will all want to help us keep all the children safe. The main gate will open at 8.30am however, if your child is in Years F2, 1 or 2 please drop off and collect your child in the normal way by their classroom door. Keystage 2 children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will enter school as normal and will go straight to class in the morning at **8.45am**.

Breakfast club children must use the side gate entrance to the school and not the main pedestrian gate. The gate will open at **8am** and close at **8.20am**.

UNIFORM

At the end of the summer term the Governors of the school asked me to remind you all about our school uniform policy. I would ask you to uphold the school uniform policy as it is important that your child comes to school tidy, clean and wearing the correct clothes. We want to encourage the children to take pride in their appearance and to take pride in wearing our school badge. Items of uniform can be purchased from the school office for your convenience. Please make sure that your child's belongings and clothes are named as it is your responsibility as a parent to do this.

GIRLS: black/grey skirt or trousers, white blouse, green sweatshirt/cardigan, white/grey/black socks or tights with dark shoes **NO TRAINERS**.

BOYS: black/grey shorts or trousers, white/grey shirt, green sweatshirt, white/grey/black socks with dark shoes **NO TRAINERS**.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club starts at 8:00am at the cost of 50p. Everyone is welcome if you would like your child to attend, please just come along – everyone is welcome to take advantage of this great way to start your child's day with a healthy breakfast.

Clubs will be returning next week...we will be sending a clubs list out soon!

Good News! - Universal Free School Meals continue

All of Key Stage 1 children are entitled to a Free School Meal (FSM) this includes **ALL** children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Please make sure you have completed a Universal Free School Meals Application Form to enable your child to receive their free school meal. Please see the school website for school meal choices.

Attendance

It is your legal responsibility to make sure your child is in school **EVERY** day and is **ALWAYS** on time for the beginning of the school day. Children can enter the school buildings from 8.45am and begin Soft Start activities which will focus on maths learning. Other important interventions will happen at this time also so it is vital that your child is here for the start of the day.

We all want the best for the children at High Street and being in school, ready to learn at the right time and in the right place is the best way to make sure your child is able to cope more easily with school routines and their learning. Too much time missed at the beginning of the school day stops others learning and means your child is missing out on a happy hassle-free start to the day.

If your child is unwell please inform us by 9.30 am on the first day they are ill. It is our policy to follow up any unexplained absences immediately. We monitor attendance closely and where necessary work with parents to support them in improving their child's attendance at school.

Lastly and most importantly - Academy Status

The Governors of the school have been in talks with the Department Of Education for some time about the possibility of High Street becoming an Academy. Since the first meeting in November of last year, I have been investigating this possibility and reporting back to the Governing Body on my findings. They too have been carrying out their own investigations and at each Governors meeting the prospect of the becoming an Academy has been discussed. After many hours of finding out, visiting and meeting with various Multi-Academy Trust leaders, the Governors decided that High Street Primary would indeed become an Academy and therefore after much further discussion the decision to become a founding school of the Reach South Academy Trust led by the CEO, Dean Ashton was voted for. This is a fantastic opportunity for High Street pupils, parents and staff to be part of, and at the start of a new and exciting educational venture in Plymouth. There are already some Academies in Plymouth however none with such excellent pedigree and status as being a Reach South Academy school. There is of course an opportunity for you to find out more about becoming an academy and being a Reach South school. Please read the letter that accompanies this newsletter where you can find out further details and where to access more information.

Staffing this year

Senior Leadership Team: Mrs Scott, Mrs Ball, Mrs Easterbrook, Mr Goodwin and Mrs Keeler

Nursery – Mrs Easterbrook

Year 3 – Miss Bishop

Foundation 2 – Miss Boraston

Year 4 – Mr Mann and Ms Sturge*

Year 1 – Mrs Keeler and Mrs Burgess

Year 5 – Mrs Hedger

Year 2 – Mrs Chambers and Mrs Ball

Year 6 – Mr Goodwin

The PPA teacher this year will be Ms Dunstan

* Mr Mann will be having an operation this term and so in his absence Year 4 will be taught by Ms Sturge who taught the children on a Monday last year when Miss Bishop had her PPA time.