

Clare Primary School

September Newsletter 2018



Dear parents/guardians

Welcome to the start of a very exciting new academic year and the new edition of our school newsletter. I hope all our pupils have enjoyed their summer off and are ready to work hard and enjoy their year!

I would encourage you to take note of any important dates and information. If you have any queries or questions, please contact Mrs Adair at the school office.

Dates for diary

- P6/7 swimming begins Thursday, 13th September and will run for 10 school weeks up to 22nd November.
- After school activities to start on the week beginning Monday 17th September (details to follow).
- Our first Friends of Clare meeting! Thursday 27th September at 6 p.m. in school (no children should attend this meeting please – sorry for the inconvenience).
- European Day of Languages 26th September, including a change to the normal dinner menu on this day!
- Parent teacher consultations will be held the week beginning 22nd October, when children will finish at 2pm all this week to accommodate these meetings.
- October half term holidays – school finishes at on Friday 26th October and reopens on Monday 5th November.
- Flu vaccine will be provided by the nurse on Tuesday, 20th November, for those who wish to avail of the service.
- Winter Fair Tuesday 4th December, proceeds to support funding resources for the children in our school.
- Winter holiday begins Friday 21st December.

Access to school in the mornings

I would like to thank our parents for being brave and letting the pupils come in by themselves even on their second day! It also says a lot about how independent and determined our pupils are. Well done to everyone. Pupils will use their normal entrances each morning from 8.40am, supervised by a member of staff, so that they are properly safeguarded.

Starting Times/Attendance/Healthy Snack

Attendance and punctuality make a HUGE difference to your child's success and general happiness in school. We always aim to raise our standards and attainment in school. To do this we must have pupils in on time and they must have good to excellent attendance. If your child is ill, please contact the school or send in a note upon their return explaining their absence. Attendance is monitored daily. If a pupil's attendance is 90% or below each month this is considered poor and the school will make contact with the parents. Please look at - www.eani.org.uk/schools/miss-school-miss-out/

Parents should provide a healthy snack each day, apart from Friday when it may be a *small* treat. This can also be bought through the school kitchen at a cost of £1.20 per week. Please send money into school on a Friday and our Eco club will gladly organize this for your family, with the support of Mrs Kelly. Parents should also provide a reusable water bottle for their child.

Dinner Money

Dinners remain at £2.60 per day. It would be really appreciated if dinner money for the week could be sent in a clearly marked envelope on a Monday morning – Money Pouches can be bought in the Office for £2.50 (1st 2 weeks of term only). To avoid taking up valuable teaching time, please send exact money each week.

Swimming lessons

Swimming for P6-P7 pupils will commence on Thursday, 13th September for a 10-week period. The money for this should be paid before the start of lessons (£30 per pupil).

Music Tuition

P6 & P7 pupils will again be offered tuition in a selection of brass and woodwind instruments. Once again, the cost to hire their instrument will be £30 per child – a note for this will be sent out in due course.

Clare Primary School

September Newsletter 2018

After School Activities

After school activities will start the week beginning Monday 17th September, more details will follow. There is strong evidence that pupils who participate in wider school life are more successful in their learning. Please encourage your child to participate in an activity this year.

Acceptable Use and Photographic Permission

It is very important that you and your child complete this form being sent home and return it to the class teacher asap. This will make sure that we follow your wishes regarding use of photographs with your child.

P1/P2 Information Afternoon.

Mrs Martin and Mrs Turkington are planning to hold an information afternoon for the parents of their class pupils. This will be an opportunity for parents to learn/revise how we teach phonics etc. in the Foundation Stage. Mrs Martin will hold her P1 meeting on Wednesday, 26th September at 2.30pm and Mrs Turkington will hold her meeting on Tuesday, 25th September at 2.30pm.

Friends of Clare – Everyone Welcome!

The staff at Clare Primary School are very keen to restart the school PTA. Our first PTA meeting will be on Thursday 27th September at 6 p.m. in school and we would love to see as many parents join us as possible. Whilst I understand it may require a bit of organising, I would ask that no children are brought to this meeting as there is no crèche available and we can get through the meeting quicker without distraction. I would love to see lots of our parents at the meeting. The meeting will last no longer than 1 hour. It will help us get to know each other and start to decide how we can work together to raise funds for the school. No-one will be forced to speak out loud or do lots of work, so please don't be put off because you've never been in a PTA before! In my experience this work is a great way of helping build better resources that benefit the pupils in our school.

Website

The web address is the same www.clareprimary.com This will be our a very important and quick way of communicating information our parents each day and each week, so please keep looking!

Open Evening

The school will hold its annual Open Evening on **Tuesday 27th November from 6 p.m.** for new pupils for the 2019 school year. Please spread the word. Further details will follow.

The year ahead!

All of the staff in Clare Primary School are looking forward to this term and will work hard to ensure that your child receives the very best learning opportunities in their classroom. However, we need your continued support so that your child makes progress and fulfils their potential this year. Your child should always make progress if:

- they are getting good sleep;
- they are supported with their homework;
- you speak positively about school at home;
- they are in school on time each day;
- they have excellent attendance.

Meetings with Staff

It is most important that staff members are left free to teach your children between 8.45 a.m. and 3.15 p.m. without disruption so that the pupils benefit as much as possible. Meetings with staff cannot take place between these times, unless by prior arrangement. If you need to meet with a staff member, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment and we will be happy to meet with you.

If you need to speak to the Principal or your child's teacher, please make an appointment through the school office and we will be glad to meet with you. Information about your child can be passed on to the teacher by the school secretary Mrs Adair.

Thank you for all your support of the school and I look forward to working in partnership with you over the upcoming school year.

Shona Lindsay

Clare Primary School September Newsletter 2018

Principal