

Clare Primary School

September Newsletter 2019



Dear parents/guardians

Welcome to the start of a very exciting new academic year and our school newsletter. I hope all our pupils have enjoyed their summer off and are ready to work hard and have their best year in school so far. We have big plans for this year!

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

Dates for diary

- The closing date for AQE applications will be Friday, 6th September.
- P6/7 swimming begins Thursday, 12th September and will run for 10 school weeks up to 18th November (further information will follow).
- European Day of Languages, Thursday 26th September, including a change to the normal dinner menu on this day!
- After school activities to start on the week beginning Monday 30th September (details to follow).
- P1 parent information afternoon will be held in Mrs Martin's room on Wednesday 9th October.
- P2 parent information afternoon will be held in Mrs Turkington's room on Thursday 10th October.
- Parent teacher consultations will be held the week beginning 21st October, when children will finish at 2pm all this week to accommodate these meetings.
- The Book Fair will be in school during the parent teacher consultation week (week beginning 21st October).
- October half term holidays – school finishes at on Friday 25th October and reopens on Monday 4th November.
- Flu vaccine will be provided by the nurse on Tuesday, 19th November, for those who wish to avail of the service.
- Winter holiday begins Friday 20th December.

Access to school in the mornings

Today has been a wonderful start to the school year, with so many children able to walk independently to their new classrooms, this is a very impressive character trait demonstrated by our children throughout the school. The school gates will be opened by Mr Wilson at 8.45am every morning, the children then make their way to their class where a member of staff will greet and supervise them 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. To avoid taking up valuable teaching time, please send exact money per child each week.

Breakfast Club

The cost of Breakfast Club will remain at £1 per day, to be paid on a Friday for the week ahead to enable accurate purchasing of food and reduce waste. Again please send the correct money per child, per day – our school counsellors collect and organize this money and it is very difficult for the children to do this if not dealing with the correct money.

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Swimming lessons

P6/7 swimming begins Thursday, 12th September and will run for 10 school weeks up to 18th November. 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. There are discussions with the School Of Music to amend the tuition slightly this year – a note for this will be sent out in due course.

After School Activities

After school activities will start the week beginning Monday 30th 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

We will hold the permissions given for your child(ren) from last year. If you wish to amend these, please contact the school office for a form or the class teacher for your child. This covers trips, PE changing arrangements, internet use and photographic permissions. 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 information afternoons for the parents of the pupils in each of these classes. This will be an opportunity for parents to learn/revise how we teach phonics etc. in the Foundation Stage. P1 parent information afternoon will be held in Mrs Martin's room on Wednesday 9th October and the P2 parent information afternoon will be held in Mrs Turkington's room on Thursday 10th October.

Friends of Clare – Everyone Welcome!

We will be arranging our first meeting of the year shortly and would warmly welcome any parents or friends of Clare to attend and help out when they can. 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.** More details will sent out when a date is finalised.

Communication

Our schoolnewsletter, website (which can be found at www.clareprimary.com) and the school Facebook page(which is under Clare Primary School) are the three most important and fastest ways of the school communicating with the families involved with the school. We keep these up to date, it is your responsibility to keep up to date with them. Other notes will be sent home from time to time – please regularly check your child's schoolbag.

Open Evening

The school will hold its annual Open Evening on **Tuesday 26th November from 6 p.m.** for new pupils for the 2020 school year. Please spread the word. Further details will follow.

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 Dillon.

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The year ahead!

There have been a few changes to our staffing structure over the summer holidays I would like to make you aware of:

Mrs Dillon has been appointed as our Senior Clerical Officer and begins this new role on 2nd September. The office will be available between 8.45am and 2pm daily.

We would like to congratulate Mrs Liggett on achieving a permanent teaching post at the end of August. Due to this, I have placed Mrs White (formerly in P3/4) in to the P6 classroom, where I am confident both she and the children will excel. Mrs Wright has been appointed to cover the remainder of Mrs Reid's maternity leave, which is due to finish on 2nd December, 2019.

As always, 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.

Thank you for all your support throughout my first year in Clare Primary School and I look forward to working in partnership with you over the upcoming school year.

Shona Lindsay
Principal