



HOWLETCH LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

NUT FREE SCHOOL POLICY

There was an incident earlier this week when a pupil with a serious nut allergy was seated for lunch next to another child eating a peanut cereal bar.

Howletch Lane Primary School is committed to offering a safe educational environment for all pupils, including those with food allergies which can be life threatening. Children with these allergies can have a reaction through contact, airborne particles and/or ingestion and are at risk of anaphylaxis. We ask all parents/carers, staff and pupils to support us as we strive to maintain a safe environment for all children by ensuring that no nuts, nut-based or nut-containing products are brought into school. This includes products such as cereal bars with nuts, peanut butter or chocolate spreads such as Nutella.

PACKED LUNCHES

We would also like to mention the importance of sending in a healthy packed lunch. We recommend a balance of savoury items such as sandwiches and salad, plus fruit and perhaps a yoghurt or nut-free cereal bar. Although I do appreciate that children can be fussy eaters, please don't include lots of chocolate or cakes, one 'treat' item should be enough!

USE OF SCHOOL BAGS

At the beginning of term, we tried to avoid unnecessary baggage which could potentially carry infection, being brought into school. However, we are aware that children do need to bring in homework, snacks, water bottles, hats and gloves etc so we now have to be practical and allow bags where needed. We already have well established routines in place for sanitising packed lunch bags and will try as much as possible to incorporate bag cleaning too. Please make sure you send items in a sensible sized bag, a plastic, wipe down carrier bag is quite adequate.

ATTENDANCE LETTERS

Natalie Reay, our Attendance Officer, will be sending letters this week to parents of children whose attendance this term is below the government standard of 96%. The letters are not being sent as a provocative measure but merely to remind parents/carers of the importance of good attendance. As we are only five weeks into the academic year, your child's attendance rate will appear low even if only having missed a couple of days due to illness or medical appointments. Please do not be alarmed – good attendance for the remainder of the year will push up the percentage. If your child has had to self-isolate due to COVID19, this will not affect your child's attendance.

If you wish to discuss your concerns with Natalie, she is in school every Wednesday. You can email to request a call back.

PARENTS' OPEN EVENING

Due to the pandemic, it is not possible to invite parents into school to discuss their child's progress as we have in the past. Instead of this, we will be sending out a short summary report of how your child is settling back into school life and what they need to work on to get to age related expectation. Please bear in mind that following lockdown, a lot of children are 'catching up' and they may take time to get back on track. This is to be expected and is the same all over the country. We are incorporating objectives from work missed last term into this term's teaching by delivering a blended curriculum. You will receive the summary report in the last week of this half term. Once you have read this, there will be an opportunity to contact the school office to make a telephone appointment if you would like to speak to the class teacher.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE CAR PARK

Please can I ask you to keep away from staff cars in the children's centre car park. There has already been some damage to cars parked there this term and we are keen to stop this happening in the future. Please take extra care when moving around this area and do not allow your children to lean on the cars when waiting for drop off and collection times. Thank you for your cooperation.

YR 2 NEW TIMINGS - REMINDER

A reminder that we are trialling a new system for Year 2 pupils for two weeks from Monday 12 October. Year 2 will enter school at the KS2 yard gate next to Sainsbury's at 9.05am and will leave school by the same gate at 3.30pm. We are doing this to create a safer environment for all members of the school environment. Please see Newsletter on school website if you did not receive the last email about this.

MR PINKNEY RETIRING

It is with great sadness that I write to confirm the retirement of Mr Pinkney deputy head from Howlatch Lane Primary at the end of October. I have worked with Mr Pinkney for the last 8 years and previous to that when he was at Howlatch in the 1990s. I could not have wished for a more supportive and hardworking deputy head and I am sure that you will join with me in wishing Mr Pinkney a very well deserved, long, happy and healthy retirement. He will be greatly missed by all who have had the pleasure to work with him. We will be appointing a new Deputy Head in the next couple of weeks.