



# October Newsletter 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first half term is well under way now and children continue to adapt to full time schooling with resilience and determination. Tiredness is starting to set in for staff as well as children so this is the time that we need to look after ourselves and make sure we get enough rest to get through until the half term break. Primary aged children need between 10 and 12 hours sleep each night in order for them to function well and focus during the school day and we are teaching children about the importance of sleep and how this may affect their mood and overall well-being if they do not get enough sleep. Children are being encouraged to switch off any devices such as phones, tablets, computer games and consoles at least an hour before sleep as there is a strong link between children using devices close to bedtime and then children struggling to get to sleep. We would welcome your support working together with us to promote this at home as well.

Miss Smith

## World Mental Health Day

Recently our Pupil Well-being Champions championed the staff and children recognising World Mental Health Day by wearing something yellow and donating a £1. Thank you to all families who supported this and we have raised £184.51 for the charity 'Young Minds' All of the children spent time in class exploring different activities that help us to feel good.



## Reading

We have noticed, following lockdown, that a number of children have sadly lost some interest in Reading. We are working hard on getting children enthused about reading again and practising this important skill which is vital for children to achieve well in life. Please continue to share your child's reading book at home with your child and for older children, asking them to still read to you or together is still important. Please sign and date that your child has read and write a comment in their reading record which has always been the case here at Purford Green. Reading will be a key focus of development this year and during the year there will be different initiatives set up to promote and enjoy reading.



## Reading information for parents

Children in EYFS are given books initially to talk and discuss often without words to start with and then as their knowledge of phonics and blending develops, they will take home books that allow them to apply their phonic skills. Children in year 1 will read at least twice a week to an adult and then books are changed once children can confidently read the text, show an understanding of the book and can read most of the text with some fluency.



Children in KS2 will choose an age appropriate text as part of our school Accelerated reader programme. Their understanding and comprehension of the text is assessed through a quiz that they take on an I pad here in school.

We will be sharing some reading support materials with parents in the near future to help support your child with reading at home and some useful questions that you can ask to support them with discussing the texts they read to focus on their comprehension of the text.

If you would like to become a school reading volunteer, we are always looking for people who can support with one to one reading as we note this is a valuable experience for children. If you are interested in this, please contact the school office who will talk you through what you will need to do as part of our recruitment procedures. Please note, at this time, all volunteers when reading with children one to one, will be required to wear a face covering in school.

## Limiting items coming into school

Please can we remind you that as part of our school COVID risk assessment we have to limit things that are coming to and from home to school. This is in the interest and safety of pupils and staff in school and also parents at home. Your child only needs to bring in a bag containing their reading book and reading record, a reusable water bottle with name on and if having packed lunch, their packed lunch box. Children should not bring comforters or toys from home into school – these need to be kept at home. We thank you for your understanding in this matter.

## Year 6 parents

Just a reminder that the deadline for applying for a secondary school place is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Passmores Academy has three open day videos on their website for you to look through with your child if you are considering a place at our secondary school.



## Dropping children off in the morning

We are aware that a number of parents and carers have siblings in school and are waiting with siblings outside of the school site to adhere to individual class drop off times. We have really appreciated your support with this difficult situation since we have returned and for following procedures so willingly. Now that the dreary and rainy weather is upon us, we would like to alter drop off arrangements slightly. To help parents, siblings will be allowed to walk in and straight into their own classroom when their older sibling goes in to class. This does not apply for siblings of children in year 6. Younger siblings of children in year 6 will need to arrive at their usual start time. Class adults will be in classrooms and children will sit and read quietly. This new system will also help to alleviate some congestion on the pathway outside of school as well. Collection times will not change and the same procedures will be in place as we have had since returning to school. The new drop off arrangements for siblings will start after half term.

## Staff vacancy

We currently have a part time LSA post advertised working and supporting a child with special educational needs in school. If you are interested in finding out more about this position, please look on the PLC website for further details and what the role includes.



## Parent Governor

I am pleased to inform the parent community that we have a new parent governor who will be joining our governing body soon. We welcome Leanne Stavrou who will join our other parent governors in working with the school to improve upon our best. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Sue Kearns who has represented parents on our governing body over the last year or so but has stepped down from her post due to family and work commitments.

## Trips and visits

I am pleased that, following our parent survey about trips and visits, the overwhelming majority of parents wished for trips and visits to start back up and would like their child to take part once again in our life experiences outside of classroom learning. School trips are now being booked and all venues are asked to share their COVID risk assessments with school to help inform our own trip risk assessment procedures. In some instances, we may ask you to provide your child with hand sanitiser for the trip but you will be asked and informed of this on the individual trip letter.



## Trailblazer Christmas card competition

Trailblazer are looking for children to design a Christmas card this year. Please see attached flyer about this. If your child would like to take part in this, their entry needs to be **emailed directly to the trailblazer team** – details of email address is on the flier. Entries need to be in by 23<sup>rd</sup> October so this might be something for your child to do over the weekend. There will be prizes awarded, from the Trailblazer team, to the best designed Christmas card.

