



PARENTS LETTER - 11/11/12

Email: silkstone.primary@barnsley.org
Webpage: www.silkstoneprimary.co.uk

Dear Parents

6 January 2012

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

Firstly may we wish you all a Happy New Year! Secondly we would like to welcome three new children who have joined the school - Ibraheem (class 5), Emaan (class 4) - who both commenced this week, and Rosie (class 4) who started in December.

Finally we wish to formally welcome our new Assistant Headteacher - Miss Gemma Ellis - who commenced this week and whom we are sure you will soon get to know.

1 CHRISTMAS FAYRE - UNCLAIMED PRIZES

We still have a few unclaimed raffle prizes from the Fayre -so if you have not yet claimed your prize please do so as soon as possible.

2 DINNER MONEY THIS TERM

Currently we have not received any communication from BMBC regarding the cost of school meals, and thus we are working on the premise that the meals will remain at £1.70 per day - £8.50 per week. Thus if you wish to pay for your child's meals for the half term the cost will be £49.30 (5 full weeks and 4 days)

May I remind you that we ask you to pay for school meals first thing on a Monday morning - with all cheque payments should be made payable to BMBC. The money should be placed in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with the child's name, and placed into the class collection box. PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR DINNER MONEY DIRECT TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

Please do remember that if your child wishes to change from school meals to their own sandwiches, or vice versa, then we do need two weeks written notice - even if this is at the very start of an academic year!

3 SCHOOL MILK

Currently we have not received any communication from BMBC regarding the cost of school milk and thus we are working on the premise that the cost will remain at £8.50 per term.

In line with the Governments "Nutritional Standards for School Lunches and Other School Food" the milk provided is skimmed or semi-skimmed.

The deadline for receipt of milk requests/payments was today and the Milk Registers have now been passed onto the class teachers. If you have ordered milk but not yet paid for it please send your payment as soon as possible - with any **cheques being made payable to BMBC** - not school. If you receive Scheme of Aid for your child then milk will be free for that child. If your child does not reach their fifth birthday until after 31 March 2012, then their milk is free for the term April to July 2012.

4 MUSIC LESSONS - PAYMENT

All payments for music lessons should have been received by the deadline date of today. If for some reason you have not yet paid for the lessons please see Miss Price in the Office so that lessons can continue for your child. As we have a waiting list for most instruments it is very important to keep the Office informed of whether or not your child wishes to continue with lessons. In many instances non payment is due to the child not wanting to continue.

5 DOGS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Can we remind all parents, grandparents and carers that no dogs (or other animals such as cats) are allowed **anywhere on the school premises**. This is not only for Health and Safety reasons, and the fact that many children are frightened of such animals - but is especially important as we do have children in school with a severe allergic reaction called an anaphylactic reaction - and this can be life threatening if they are exposed to animal fur.

Can we thus ask you to speak to grandparents or anyone else that might bring or collect your child as perhaps they are unaware of the restrictions regarding animals on school premises.

6 ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL IN THE MORNING

Can we just remind parents that when children arrive in the morning they remain the responsibility of parents until they go into their class at 8.50am. There is no staff supervision in the playground in the mornings, as members of staff are not on duty until 8.50am. We have had instances of children arriving in the school grounds between 8.00am and 8.15am and obviously we are greatly concerned for the safety of such children.

For parents who have to be at work early, or for whatever reason are unavailable to remain with their child, or have anyone else to look after the child, then we would refer you to Little Giants Out-Of-School Club. They can be contacted on 07854 710 299.

7 ARRIVING IN SCHOOL AFTER THE 9.00AM BELL

Can we please remind all parents that once class has commenced at 9.00am children should be taken to the main reception and signed in. Once your child has been in signed in a member of the office staff will take your child to class.

Can we remind parents that for security reasons parents should not go straight round to the outside doors of the classrooms and knock on the door - as you would be interrupting a class in session.

8 PUFFIN BOOKCLUB

Leaflets and order forms for the above Bookclub have been given to children today to bring home - so please check book bags!

All orders and payment needs to be received in school by 9.00am on Friday, 13 January. Please note there is no cash payment - and cheques should be made payable to Puffin Bookclub as per the instructions on the leaflet.

SCHOOL MEALS/FOOD INFORMATION

1 FOOD ALLERGIES WITHIN SCHOOL

We now have six children in school who have severe allergies to kiwi fruit or peanuts (including peanut oil) or Cashew Nut Oil, and any contact with kiwi fruit, peanuts, peanut oil or cashew nut oil can result in a severe allergic reaction called an anaphylactic reaction - and this can be life threatening.

I am therefore requesting your co-operation by asking that you do not send your child to school with kiwi fruits, peanuts or items containing peanut oil in their packed lunch. This would also apply to any snacks or any party food that is brought into school at certain times of the year. Obviously, if this creates a problem for you then please do contact me so that we can discuss the matter.

2 SCHOOL FOOD

We know at school that some children like to bring in treats for their classmates when it is their birthday, or when they have been on holiday. As you may be aware the government has set out new guidelines for food prepared and served in school. However, food brought in by pupils on an occasional basis for the celebration of

their birthday, is one of the areas exempt from government regulations. We have liaised with the Healthy Schools team in Barnsley and Food for Life Partnership and they both agree that children should be able to bring in a birthday treat for their class if they wish to. This birthday treat has now been refined to **one** of the following which may be brought into school by a child on their birthday.

One *small* piece of birthday cake for each child or
One fairy bun or
One *small* (fun sized) chocolate bar

No other sweets or biscuits may be brought into school for birthdays or from holidays.

This birthday treat can be given at milk time or home time, dependent on the wishes of the child who has brought the treat in.

We feel that, acting on guidance, this is a suitable compromise and still supports an overall daily balanced diet within school over the main food groups. We would appreciate your co-operation

SCHOOL CLUBS/SPORT

1 EXTRA CURRICULA CLUBS IN SCHOOL

All clubs will resume this week on the same day/time as last term - but with one change to Multi Skills. This is now on a Friday, and Mr Simon has already sent out a separate letter.

Please note that during inclement weather clubs might be subject to cancellation at short notice - although wherever possible at least 24 hours notice will be given. Cancellations will be notified by text messaging wherever possible.

2 TEAM BARNSELEY ADULT SURVEY

New for 2012 - Team Barnsley are planning a number of special events for parents, teachers and other adults who have supported Team Barnsley competitions.

Please complete their short survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JS8K2JW> in order to give them your opinions.

Yours sincerely

Composed and written by Mrs A Griffin, SAO, on behalf of Mrs P Skilbeck, Headteacher

For your information:

- 1 All newsletters are posted onto the school website on Friday evening, and should be available for you to read or download on or before Saturday lunchtime.
- 2 Several copies of the newsletters are always put into the parents' area for parents to collect if they have mislaid their letter, or have not received it for any reason,
- 3 The newsletter is not weekly - it is produced as and when we need to inform or remind you of things happening in school. (You also receive regular text messages reminding you of forthcoming events - usually the day before the event). Additionally the annual School Calendar is uploaded onto the school website each September that you can refer to at any time. However, newsletters are numbered, so you can immediately see if you have missed one. This newsletter is number 11 of the academic year 2011-2012 and is thus numbered 11/11/12 the number is displayed at the very top of the letter under the logo.