Welcome back to school from what we all hope was a lovely summer break for you all.

***Marlfields***

***Primary***

***Academy***

***Newsletter***

***4th September 2015***

***To contact school please call:***

***01260 387057***

**Please be aware that if school should contact you the number which appears on your phone will be: 0845 1480060**

Many thanks from all the staff for the lovely gifts which we received at the end of last term.

A big warm welcome to everyone who is new to the school, be it pupil or staff!

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**Government Fines for Lateness**

As many of you might be aware the Government has decided to fine parents of children that are persistently late to school. Research shows that lateness has a significant impact on a child’s self-esteem and socialisation; being just 5 minutes late every day can add up to 3 days lost learning by the end of the academic year and if your child is 15 minutes late for school then this equates to over 2 weeks of lost schooling over a year.

We understand that at times your child may be late due to attending medical appointments etc. as such we will take this into account so long as you give 24 hours notice of the appointment in writing to the school office. We cannot accept phone calls on the morning of the appointment as being given notification unless it is accompanied by a letter from the doctor/dentist etc. to say an appointment was kept.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of your child maintaining a good attendance at school. Fines for poor attendance and holidays during school time will still be imposed by the Government.

With this in mind we would like to inform you of how this will affect you as a family from September 2015. In order to comply with the Government regulations Marlfields keeps a daily log of late arrivals, your child is deemed late if they arrive after registration. Should your child arrive late to school on more than 7 occasions over a term you will be sent a notification of lateness and be issued with a warning. After 10 days of lateness a fine notification will be sent to the Local Authority and a fine issued to you. The fine is **£60,** which has to be **paid within 21 days or it doubles to £120** and a prosecution may be enforced.

**ATTENDANCE**

One of the aims for this year is to improve pupil attendance. To help us to do this we are using incentives for the children.

Each week, a child who has 100% attendance will be given a gold sticker. At the end of the Autumn Term a child with 100% attendance will be given a **Bronze Badge**, at the end of the Spring Term if they have still not had any time off school they will be given a **Silver Badge** and at the end of the school year a **Gold Badge**. At the end of the school year any child who has a gold badge may be given an extra special treat.

**Holidays during term time**:

The Department for Education does not allow parents to take their children out of school during term time; however a leave of absence may occasionally be granted in **very** exceptional circumstances. Please ask at the office for details. Holiday dates are shown further on in the Newsletter for your information.

**SCHOOL LIFE REMINDERS**

**School day**:

School starts at **8:55am**; children in Reception and Years 1 – 6 should assemble prior to this time on the big playground. Children in the Nursery should enter by the door nearest the Waggs Road pedestrian walkway.

At the end of the school day - **3:20pm** parents should wait in the same place as in the morning and the class teacher will bring the children out to you. It would be greatly appreciated if parents did not crowd round the doors and stand well back as the teachers need to clearly see who the children are going to.

***If someone other than yourself should come to school to collect your child at the end of the day please inform the class teacher or the office who will be collecting.***  If we have not been notified we will not allow your child to leave school with that person until we have contacted you for verification which can cause consternation for whoever is collecting your child, yourself and indeed us, so please help us to help you by letting us know in advance. Similarly if you wish to allow your child to walk home on his/her own we need to have a letter from you indicating your wishes.

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| **Uniform (compulsory)**  Red sweatshirt with logo  Red polo shirt with logo  Grey skirt/trousers  Sensible black school shoes  (**no trainers**). |  | **P.E. Kit: (compulsory)**  A red T-shirt (with/without the school logo)  Dark, preferably Black shorts  Black pumps for indoors P.E.  Trainers for outdoors P.E.  School logo or Dark track suit for outdoorP.E.(for winter) |

**School Uniform:**

Uniform forms are available off the stand outside of the office should you wish to place an order.

**Illness:**

**Please call 01260 387057 *before 10:00am* to report your child’s absence.** School will contact you via text message or phone if a message has not been received by that time. Failure to inform school of a valid reason for your child’s absence may result in you being contacted by the Educational Welfare Officer, with the possibility of a Fixed Penalty Notice being served.

**Medicines in School:**

School can only administer medication which has been **prescribed** by a health professional and is brought to school in its original pharmacy bottle with label and a form has been filled in at the office. Medications should be left at and collected from the school office by an adult.

If a child is on long term medication for illnesses such as epilepsy/anaphylaxis/asthma etc. where medication is kept at school at all times, the onus is on the parent to ensure that the medicine is in date.

**Head Lice:**

Now the children are back at school it is inevitable that the issue of head-lice will reappear. Please take the time to check your child’s hair regularly and if lice or nits are found please inform school and treat your child’s hair accordingly. We have some products in school to treat head-lice should you need any but find the cost off treatment prohibitive.

**Dinner money**:

All the children in Key Stage 1 are now eligible to Universal Free School Meals; please complete the attached form if your child is in the Reception Class, Year 1 or Year 2. If you think that your child in any class is entitled to Free School Meals you will need to check with and/or apply to Cheshire East Council on **0300 123 5012**.

For all other children the price of school meals is **£10.50 per week (£2.10 per day)** which should be sent in a named envelope **each Monday** morning. Cheques should be made payable to **Marlfields Primary Academy** Unfortunately, due to a number of bad debts last term we are no longer allowed to extend credit. This means that unless money is **received IN ADVANCE for meals** we will be unable to feed your child and you will be contacted to provide him/her with a packed lunch.

**Snack money:**

Juice/milk and toast/bagel/crumpet/bacon butty/toasted teacake costs £2 per week. Snack money should be sent to school in a named envelope. Please ensure that snack money is sent in Monday morning to ensure that your child gets snack that day. Reception children under 5 pay £1 per week.

**Parent’s Information meetings:**

On **Thursday 17th September at 6pm** we will be holding a Parent’s Meeting. This is a meeting for parents to discuss with our Senior Management Team a topic important to the children and their education and how we work together to give our children the best opportunity and care. Our previous meetings have discussed Behaviour, whereby a new policy was completed; and, Homework where the amount given and subject matter was discussed. All parents are encouraged to attend. The theme for this meeting will be **“Help Your Child With E-Safety”** (supported byCheshire PSCOs) **and ‘Help Your Child With Phonics and Reading”.** Each presentation and workshop will last for approx. 30 minutes and be repeat so you can attend both.

The following week, on **Wednesday 23rd September** we are holding another meeting to give you information about how to **“Help Your Child With Maths”.**

**THUMBS UP THURSDAY**

Beginning next week we are inviting parents in to school every Thursday morning from 8:45am to have a look at their child’s books and work and to see their classroom displays.

**VISITING AUTHOR**

On Monday 7th September we are fortunate to be visited by the children’s author Eamonn Reilly. Eamonn is a natural showman and an inspiring writer. Schools who have previously had an assembly from Eamonn say that the visit gave a lift to the whole school in reading and writing (many said especially for the boys). The assembly contains funny parts to amuse the younger children, together with a good deal of dramatic tension for developing and advanced readers. We are sure the event will be a support for the schools literacy programme and obviously Eamonn hopes to increase his readership. **It would also help if you could get the children to have a look at the web site** [**www.er-reilly.co.uk**](http://www.er-reilly.co.uk) **& think of some questions to ask Eamonn on the day.**

Eamonn will leave a box of books with us on the day of the visit. These will be on sale to the children for approx 2 weeks. We will send out a letter on the day of the visit which will include an order form for any books you may wish to buy.

Where Eamonn’s schedule allows he will try to get back to school to sign any books bought. He will let us know if this is possible on the day of the visit.

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

On **Friday 18th September –** we will be holding a Coffee Morning as part of the **Macmillan Cancer Charity World’s Biggest Coffee Morning** in The Studio. We are calling the Coffee Morning –

**BEARS AGAINST CANCER**

Come along and have a cuppa and a biscuit or cake from **9:15am until 10:30am** to help us raise as much money as we can for this very worthwhile cause. We are very fortunate that you as parents always support this charity event and it is always well attended.Bring along the whole family, your friends and neighbours – the more the merrier! The children will be attending too, so please send them in with some money so that they can buy a cake and a drink, £1 should be sufficient. We would also be most grateful for any donations monetary wise or donations of cakes or biscuits towards the coffee morning. If you would like to donate cakes etc. please bring them in the day before where possible.

**Dogs:**

Under no circumstance are dogs permitted on school grounds.

**Smoking:**

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school premises or grounds.

**Data Collection Sheet:**

Along with the Newsletter you will find a Data Collection Sheet. Please take the time to fill it in with your child’s details, especially your contact details and details of other emergency contacts which we may need should your child become ill or we need to contact you for any reason.

**Extra-Curricular Clubs**

The list of extra-curricular clubs and application form is towards the end of the Newsletter. As usual some clubs will prove more popular than others and demand will out-weigh the places available which means that your child may not get a place at their chosen club. Please ensure you return the slip as soon as possible as the places will be given out on a first come, first served basis.

**Staff Car Park:**

Parents are **NOT** allowed to park on the staff car park.

Children and parents should avoid using the car park as a means of walking in to school and should use the pedestrian access only which is on Waggs Road.

**We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you to park considerately when parking on the road in front of neighbouring properties. We also ask that you do not park on the private car park belonging to Westlands Court.**

Please see the letter from Cheshire Constabulary attached to this Newsletter.

**BUILDING WORK**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience during the construction works and to remind you that due to the roofing repairs there will be restricted vehicular access to school each day. **The gates to the school driveway will be locked from 8:40am each day and re-opened at 9:30am** (parents and children should not be using this entrance anyway). **The gates will be locked again at 2:45pm until 3:30pm.**

**OLD SHOES**

We are collecting pairs of shoes which we send off to a charity. If you have any old shoes that you would like to donate please send them in as soon as possible in a tied carrier bag.

**Munch and Crunch with the Reading Bunch!**

The Reading Bunch Club is an early morning reading club for children from Year 1. It takes place daily from 8:15am. Children coming to the club will not only read their reading books but also do other reading related activities, as well as having a quick mini breakfast before going to their class at 8:50am. Every child from Year 1 is welcome at the Reading Bunch Club. **Please understand that this is not a drop-in club**. All sessions **MUST** be booked, using the slip below. Parents are welcome to come to the club to read with their child and anybody wishing to volunteer their time to stay and help listen to children read will be very welcome. If you feel that you would be able to stay and offer your services please indicate on the slip below.

**Reading Bunch Club**

Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to enrol my child into the Reading Bunch Club. I will ensure that my child is in school for 8:15am to take part in the reading activities on the following days:-

🞏Monday 🞏 Tuesday 🞏 Wednesday 🞏 Thursday 🞏 Friday

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



*Parking outside the school entrance might save you time,* ***BUT*** *……………*

*Are you one of those drivers who park on the zig-zags when taking children to and from school?*

* ***You only park there for a few minutes... And only when it’s raining … oh! And only when you’re in a hurry … and …***
* ***These are the very times accidents are likely to happen – It wouldn’t happen at your school though, would it!!***

***Did you know that parked cars are a major cause of accidents outside schools? Many children cannot judge how fast vehicles are going or how far away they are.***

Things you might like to know or are reminded of:

**STOPPING DISTANCES**

At 20 mph = 12 metres (40 feet) or 3 car lengths. Hitting a pedestrian at 20 mph there is a 1 in 20 chance of them being killed.

At 30 mph = 23 metres (75 feet) or 6 car lengths.

The speed limit is the **absolute maximum** and does **NOT mean it is safe to drive at that speed irrespective of conditions** > you can go slower with children about – **30mph is a Limit not a TARGET**

**THE LAW**

\* You **MUST NOT** drive on or over pavements, footpaths or grass verges except to gain lawful access to property.

\* You **MUST NOT** park, drop off or wait neither in the yellow zig-zag lines nor in the yellow Keep Clear area.

\* **DO NOT** park your vehicle on the road where it would endanger,

inconvenience or obstruct pedestrians or other road users, eg. **do not**

**stop near a school entrance**

\* You **MUST NOT** park opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction or in the apex of a junction.

\* You **MUST NOT** park where the kerb has been lowered to allow access for crossing

\* You **MUST NOT** park on a bend

**WHY NOT WALK TO SCHOOL – BE HEALTHY, SAVE MONEY LOWER YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT**

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO CREATING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT**

**SO BEWARE WE WILL BE VISITING YOUR SCHOOL!**