

St Catherine's Parent Representatives Meeting

Wednesday 27th November 2023 @ 8.30am.

Present: Staff: Mrs Whatley, Ms Evans, Mrs McKenzie, Mrs Turner
 Parents: Y2, Y5, Y4, Reception, Yr 6
 Apologies Yr 1 Yr3, and Nursery

1. School Uniform

A reminder to all parents that Smiths schoolwear are the only approved retailers that sell the correct uniform with our St Catherine's crest on it. For PE hoodies, Jumpers & Cardigans, Blue T-Shirts & PE T-Shirts Smiths should be used. Alternative shops can be used for grey school trousers, skirts, PE shorts etc. Non-approved retailers are putting the logo on items such as fleeces, zipped hoodies and football shorts. These items are not in our uniform list.

2. Swimming

If your child is well enough to be in school, then they must participate in swimming, (which is part of the statutory curriculum) outdoor PE, Forest school and playtimes. We do not have staff available to provide children with supervision if they wish to be excused. If you have any concerns about your child, then please speak to a teacher.

3. Mystery Storyteller

Most classes will now be underway with Mystery Storyteller, and some will be starting in January. May we please ask those parents volunteering to please not bring younger siblings with them as it can cause distraction to the other children, and if tidy up time has already taken place this can create further work for the teachers. Please remember that the idea is for this to be a 'Surprise' so we kindly ask you to refrain from telling your child. We have had examples of parents having to cancel last minute and children are left feeling upset/disappointed.

4. SchoolPing

If you would like to receive SchoolPing messages to your email, please go into settings and notifications and switch the radio button to always receive email notifications. If you choose to update your email address on SchoolPing please be mindful that this APP is separate to the school system, so the school will not be alerted. If you change your email address, please inform the school office.

5. Tapestry

Tapestry is used to show parents their child's work or play activities and observations. This is not a communication tool for parents/teachers. If you need to communicate with your child's teacher, please either email the school office or speak with them at the end of school.

6. Reading/Reading Records

Please ensure that your child's reading books are in their bags every day for reading activities. With regards to children reading in Reception, staff make their own assessments which are recorded on an internal system. The Reading records are for parents to use at home and to let the teacher know how often a child is being read to and what books they are reading outside of school. We don't expect the reading records to be completed by the parents every time. Twice a week minimum would be great! At school children learn to read through Little Wandle, and phonics knowledge is also recorded in detail by the teacher. If your teacher has any concerns regarding your child's reading, they will contact you directly.

7. Vale Drive – One Way System

We have an "Unofficial" rule that parents dropping off children at school should approach Vale Drive from Milton Avenue and come "down" the road. Those coming down Woodfall and Elton Road should turn right at the bottom of these roads. We are starting to see major congestion on Vale Drive which we hope to try and avoid by sticking to this rule. Please be mindful where you park, as blocking people's driveways causes many complaints. Reminders will be put in the newsletter this week.

8. Shoes & Socks

Can we please ensure that all children have a spare pair of socks in their school bags should their feet get wet during a fire drill, Forest school or break time. Those that would like to play football may change into trainers on their allocated football day to save the wear and tear on school shoes. Please note while the weather is wet children will not be playing on the MUGA or the field.

9. Homework

St Catherine's does not set homework for the children; however, they have Times table Rockstars, Purple Mash & Numbots which they can use for additional learning. In Year 6 children will begin receiving SATS preparation and projects to support them with their transition to secondary school.

We encourage every child to read every day at home even if they are fluent readers. All primary school children need to continue to develop their comprehension and inference skills which has a huge impact on their understanding of all subjects in the curriculum.

10. School Meals

We currently have a fabulous selection of school dinner choices for our children. We ensure every child has vegetables on their plate and the salad bar is there for them to help themselves. If your child is still hungry after finishing their meal, they can speak to a teacher, and they will do their best to ensure they get a little more.

11. Playground equipment at the end of the school day

Children are not allowed to play on the MUGA, playground equipment or the grass before and after school. Thank you for your support.

12. Lost uniform

Parents are welcome to go to the dining hall to look through lost property, please ask a member of staff in the playground before / after school. If your child's item is not there please take an item with no name on it.

13. Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas jumper day will be Wednesday 13th December. This will be on the same day the children receive their Christmas dinner. Look out for the Christmas Jumper Stall at the Christmas Fayre this Saturday. May save you money!

14. AOB

Nativity Play – Flash drives are to be ordered by 1st December and payable on ParentPay. The form must also be completed.

Thank you to all the parents that completed the questionnaire.

Next meeting: Wednesday 17th January 8.30am in school.

