



Headteacher: Mrs Trudie Southward
Horsfall Street, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9QY
Telephone: 0113 307 5550

Email: admin@asquithprimary.org

Website: <http://www.asquithprimary.leeds.sch.uk>

Friday 9th September, 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have enjoyed welcoming all pupils back to school after the summer holidays and we are excited about the new academic year ahead.

As we enter this new academic year and reflect on the previous one, we are all looking forward to pressing the 'Covid Reset Button' which will allow us to return to a familiar routine with a focus on high standards, expectations and learning.

Our children have amazed and delighted us on their return, with their positive attitudes and their resilience in returning to pre-Covid routines, standards and expectations. I would also like to say how smart they have all looked coming into school in their new uniforms.

We know that there will be many exciting times ahead for all of us and your support has been much appreciated in this first week back.

For all of our children, the start of a new year with a new classroom and teacher can make us a little nervous. For our new Nursery and Reception children, they have made such a wonderful start in their first week at school and we are so proud of them all. I would like to extend a special warm Asquith Family welcome to the new starters and their families in the Nursery and Reception classes and also a warm welcome to Hudson – Year 1, Jorin and Savana – Year 2, Oliver and Wallis – Year 3, and Jayant, Cedric and Parker – Year 4.

I appreciate that this is a longer newsletter than will be normal but there is a lot of information that we would like to share with you so please persevere to the end as hopefully it may answer some of your queries.

Allocated INSET days for this academic year (2022-2023)

1. Monday 5th September, 2022
2. Tuesday 6th September, 2022
3. Tuesday 3rd January, 2023
4. Monday 24th July, 2023
5. Tuesday 25th July, 2023

Dates for your diary

- Tuesday 18th October (3.30 – 5.30pm) - Parents' Evening
- Thursday 20th October (3.30 – 7.30pm) – Parents' Evening
- Friday 18th November – Children in Need – dress as you like day (donation to raise funds for the charity)
- Monday 21st – Wednesday 23rd November – Y6 residential to Whitby
- Tuesday 6th December (6.30pm) – UKS2 (Years 5 & 6) Town Hall Concert – further details to follow nearer the time
- Wednesday 7th December (9.00am and 2.30pm) – EYFS concert
- Thursday 8th December (9.00am and 2.30pm) - KS1 Nativity Play
- Friday 9th December – (9.30am) - LKS2 (Years 3 & 4) children church concert – further details to follow nearer the time

We will add further dates as they are arranged, so please keep checking future newsletters and the website for more details.

If you are worried that a child is at risk harm, please contact Social Care
Direct on 0845 8503 503

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Attendance & Punctuality

We encourage all children to have excellent attendance at Asquith Primary. Regular school attendance brings enormous benefits to individual pupils, their families, schools and the community as a whole. Without regular attendance, levels of attainment suffer and opportunities are missed to obtain maximum benefit from education. Comprehensive research shows that there is a direct link between a child's level of school attendance and their level of school attainment.

Figures below are calculated over 1 school year...

5 minutes lost each day equals	3 whole school days lost each year!
10 minutes lost each day equates to	6.5 whole school days lost each year!
15 minutes lost each day equals	10 whole school days lost each year!
20 minutes lost each day equates to	13 whole school days lost each year!
30 minutes lost each day equals	19 whole school days lost each year!

It is vital that school and families set the expectation of good attendance & punctuality right from the beginning of school so children grow up with good habits. If your child is absent from school, please inform the school office by telephone. If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message on the answer machine, giving a reason for the absence.

School start and end times

Just a little reminder that school doors open at 8.45am. All children have English work to complete on arrival so we would appreciate parents' support in trying to get them to school for 8.45am prompt so that they are not at a disadvantage coming into the classroom late. Being just 5 minutes late each day means that your child will be missing 3 whole school days of learning when compared with their peers who are in school at 8.45am!

Communication with school

As you will appreciate, 8.45am is a very busy time for class teachers as they need to be able to supervise the children as they come into class. Therefore, we respectfully ask that if parents have any queries or concerns, they wait until the end of the day to speak with their child's class teacher. Once the children have been dismissed from the playground, the teachers will have much more time to be able to give you their full attention. For more urgent conversations, please contact the school office on 0113 307 5550 (for future reference, this number can be found on the top of every newsletter), and the office staff will arrange for you to meet with a member of staff who can deal with your query or concern.

We plan to review our parental communication systems in the near future to try to ensure that we are able to keep you all updated / answer any queries / address any concerns you have in a speedier fashion. Please bear with us while we put this in place and we will send out further details in a future newsletter.

For general enquiries, members of the leadership and pastoral teams are available on the playground at the start of each day. We are in the process of ordering some high-viz vests so that we are easily identifiable for those parents who are unsure who we are!

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School Uniform reminder

At Asquith Primary, we aim to foster a feeling of community throughout our school. We ask our pupils to wear the correct school uniform and believe that it gives the school a sense of identity and helps promote feelings of belonging and togetherness. Our school uniform is:

- Royal blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan;
- White shirt, blouse or polo shirt;
- Black or grey trousers, skirts or pinafores. In the summer, girls may wear blue or yellow checked dresses;
- Clothing carrying the school badge can be obtained from The Uniform Centre, opposite the main Post Office in Morley;
- Uniform may also be bought online from Tesco <http://www.clothingattesco.com/icat/embschoolwear>
- Plain black shoes (no heels)
- No jewellery should be worn, other than plain stud earrings.

To avoid uniform being lost, please ensure all items of uniform are named, as it makes us much more successful in getting lost/misplaced items back to you.

School PE kit

Just a quick reminder that the correct PE kits should comprise of:

- Plain white t-shirt or polo shirt
- Royal blue shorts
- Plain black hoodie
- Plain black joggers
- Solid colour trainers
- Earrings should be removed and kept at home on the day of PE. If earrings are unable to be removed for PE, they will need taping up with medical tape which the class teacher will supply.

If children have the wrong PE kit, we will lend them the correct uniformed items and send a message home to let you know which item of clothing is not correct. We would appreciate parents trying to replace incorrect PE kit items as soon as possible, as we do not have unlimited kit to lend out. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

School Gates & Security

The safety of our pupils is of paramount importance. Parents need to feel confident that their child is safe while at school. In addition, schools need to be able to use staff time to focus on teaching & learning, not having to deal with issues arising due to gates being open throughout the school day. Therefore, as of Monday 12th September, there will be slight changes to when the gates for the carpark and also the path are open to the parents and other members of the public.

Carpark gates

It is important that people who are authorised to use the school car park (i.e. staff and blue badge holders) are able to have a parking space. This has not always been the case this week. Therefore, to address the issues raised this week, we will be locking the school gates for the car park at all times throughout the school day. Only school staff and blue badge holders will be permitted entry to the car park between 8.30am – 3.30pm. I appreciate that this may be inconvenient for some staff and parents, however we need to prioritise the safety of pupils and ensure those who are authorised are able to use the carpark.

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Disabled access to the car park

We have a number of families who require access to the school car park as they are blue badge holders. Blue Badges help people with disabilities or health conditions park closer to their destination. You can apply for a badge for yourself, on behalf of somebody else or an organisation that transports people that need a Blue Badge. We have attempted to contact those parents who we think are in possession of a blue parking badge and arranged for them to have a school parking permit. As of Monday, only cars with a school parking permit will be given access to the school carpark. If anyone is a blue badge holder and feels that they should have a school parking permit, please contact the school as a matter of urgency so that we can arrange this. School permits will only be given to people who are able to provide a blue badge.

Path gates

Beginning of school arrangements

You will hopefully have seen the signs on school gates informing parents that the path gates will be locked at 8.55am each day. This will ensure site security and also ensure that any children coming into school late come through the main office so we can register them appropriately.

End of school arrangements

The path gates will be re-opened for parents to come onto the premises from 3.00pm. We appreciate that this is later than parents are used to but is required to ensure site security while children are on site. Parents will still have access to main reception office during the school day, but will be unable to get around the side of the school as the gates near the containers will be locked until 3.00pm.

Picking a child up after an After-School Club

External path gates will be re-locked for the day at 3.50pm so the site is secure for the evening. Therefore, if you are picking your child up from an after-school club finishing at 4.15pm, please enter the school premises through the main gates near the school office to avoid difficulties accessing the site.

Parents picking children up from the after-school club provided as childcare will be able to pick their child up as normal.

Please note, these arrangements will commence as of Monday 12th September and we apologise in advance for any inconvenience this change will bring. I'm anticipating that there will probably be teething problems while we all get used to this change of arrangements and would appreciate parents' patience during this transition time. Thank you in anticipation.

School Website

We are in the process of updating our school website as we appreciate that currently a number of items are out of date. If you require anything and are not able to get the information from the website, please contact us on admin@asquithprimary.org and we will endeavour to answer any of your queries. We hope to launch our new updated website in January so watch this space!

We hope that this gives all of the relevant information for the start of the new term but if you have any questions please feel free to contact school and we will answer your questions to the best of our ability!

Have a lovely weekend and we will look forward to seeing you all again at 8.45am on Monday!



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