



Livingstone Newsletter

8th September 2023

Welcome back to all of our families and a special welcome to all the new members of the Livingstone family, both in Nursery and Reception and to those in other year groups.

Star of the Week:

In our Star of the Week assembly today, all class teachers made a point of saying what a super start to the year all classes had made and how hard it had been to choose their Star of the Week. Well done to everyone.

Nursery: Ellie-Jae
Year 3: Lyra

Reception: Lola
Year 4: Emeyliah

Year 1: Willow
Year 5: Newton

Year 2: Molly
Year 6: Matthew

Start and finish times:

All children should arrive at school between 8.45am and 8.55am. Children arriving at school after 8.55am will be marked as late. Children arriving after 0930am will be marked as an unauthorised absence "U" code. The end of the school day is 3pm for Nursery, 3.10pm for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and 3.15pm for children in Years 3-6.

Welcome to Year session:

We are holding welcome to Year sessions on Wednesday 13th September. These sessions will be held in the classrooms and will last around half an hour. We will deliver the sessions twice – once at 3.30pm and once at 5pm. These presentations will give you a chance to meet the teachers, find out about routines and expectations and about any official assessments that happen in this year group. We hope as many people as possible will attend as it will provide lots of useful information.

Nut and Sesame free school:

Please can we remind parents and carers that we are a nut and sesame free school. This means that children should not bring to school items for their lunch that contain nuts or sesame. This includes peanut butter or chocolate nut spread sandwiches or cake bars, cereal bars with nuts in them and the one that has been catching a few people out recently is hummus as this generally contains tahini which is sesame seed paste. If we see children with these items in their packed lunch we will substitute the item. Snacks should just be fruit or vegetables. Thank you for your help.

Free School Meals:

If your financial situation has changed, and you are now receiving some benefits, please contact the office to see whether you might be entitled to Free School Meals. Eligibility is defined through the benefits that you claim but we can check eligibility at school with just a little bit of information. Once we have entered this information on the system, it will check regularly whether you have become eligible and will notify us automatically.

It is worth doing this even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and already gets a universal free school meal or even if your child want to remain on packed lunches because it also brings additional funding in to school to support learning and can qualify you for other support such as holiday food vouchers or access to holiday clubs.

School Dinner Price:

The cost to parents for children in Nursery and Year 3-6 for a meal remains at £2.68 for the moment. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will still get free school meals through the Universal Free School Meals scheme.

School Pedestrian Gate:

We are now locking the pedestrian gate when children are out doing PE or outside for another lesson. This means that parents won't be able to access the playground for pick up until the children have gone inside and the gate has been unlocked. This might mean that you are only able to access the playground just before 12pm for morning nursery and just before 3pm for afternoon nursery. Please be patient and wait outside the playground until the gate is opened. Thank you.



Attendance Policy

We always aim to work closely with parents and carers to support the attendance and punctuality of our children; to build personal resilience, and to enable children to achieve their maximum potential. Poor attendance and punctuality at primary school can often lead to bad habits and poor attendance at secondary school leading to students not achieving their best. A child who has an attendance of 95% will have missed 9 days learning during the year which will begin to impact their achievement and may also start to impact their friendship groups. At 90% attendance, classed as persistent absence, children will be missing 19 days of school and so the impact will be much more significant and potentially detrimental.

The below points give you a summary of our attendance policy:

- Parents/carers will be asked to attend an attendance meeting with the Attendance Officer when attendance falls below 95% and / or where attendance appears to be deteriorating or if patterns of absence are emerging
- Any unauthorised absence of 10 sessions or 5 school days or more will be referred to the Education Welfare Service in line with Tameside's Code of Conduct for the use of Fixed Penalty Notices
- New guidance insists that if a family have taken children on two holidays during their full time education (across primary and secondary) resulting in a penalty, then any subsequent absence for the same children or siblings MAY result in prosecution and a £1000 fine instead of the normal penalty/£60 fine per child per parent.
- Wherever possible, doctor /dentist appointments should be made outside of school hours unless it is an emergency. Any appointments made during school hours will require evidence to be shown at the office.

A full letter about attendance will be sent out next week as some of the guidance has recently changed. The Local Authority and school are committed to providing the best possible future for your child. If you have concerns about your child's attendance at school or if you are experiencing any difficulties, please contact the school and ask for help. Thank you for working with us to improve attendance this year.

Mossley Hollins Open Evening:

I have attached a flyer for Mossley Hollins' Open Evening on Tuesday 26th September. This is for children and parents in Y5 and Y6.

Saddleworth Language Club:

There is a new Spanish and French club starting on Saturday mornings for children aged 3-11 on Saturday mornings at The Satellite Centre in Greenfield. French for children aged 3-6 will take place at 8am, French for children aged 7-11 will take place at 9am, Spanish for 3-6 year olds at 10am and finally Spanish for those aged 7-11 will be at 11am. Flyer attached.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 13th September: Welcome to Year Group Parents' and Carers' sessions 3.30pm & 5pm
Tuesday 26th September: Mossley Hollins Open Evening for Year 5 & 6
Thursday 5th October: Individual and sibling photos
Tuesday 10th / Wednesday 11th October: Year 3 Spanish Day @ MHHS
Thursday 19th October: Hallowe'en Disco EYFS in the school day; Y1&2 5-6pm; Y3-6 6.30 – 7.30pm
Friday 20th October: End of Half term 1
Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October: half term holiday
Monday 30th October: Start of half term 2
Wednesday 1st November: MCSP Maths challenge for Year 6
Thursday 2nd November: Flu Vaccinations; MCSP Debate meeting
Tuesday 7th November: Livingstone Open day / evening for new Nursery and Reception September 2024
Tuesday 28th November: Parents' evening 3.30pm – 6pm
Wednesday 29th November: Parents' Evening 4.30pm – 7pm
Saturday 9th December: Christmas Fair 11-1.30pm
Monday 11th December: EYFS Nativity 9.30am; Year 1 & 2 nativity 2pm
Tuesday 12th December: EYFS nativity 9.30am; Year 1 & 2 nativity 2pm & 6pm
Thursday 14th December: EYFS party am; Y1&2 and Y3&4 party pm
Friday 15th December: Carol concert 9.10am; Y5&6 party pm; end of term 3.15pm
Monday 18th December – Monday 1st January 2024: Christmas holiday
Tuesday 2nd January 2024: Inset Training Day for Staff
Wednesday 3rd January 2024: Children return to school