

# Newsletter-1- September.

[www.floweryfieldschool.org.uk](http://www.floweryfieldschool.org.uk) – see school’s website for more information.

Dear All,

Welcome back to school to all and a special welcome to those of you who are starting with us for the first time. I have been very impressed by how quickly all of our new starters have settled in. This year we have started a “buddy system” which has paired our year 6 pupils with the Reception classes. The older children have accompanied their “buddies” into lunch and ensured that they have had an enjoyable lunchtime. We plan to allow this link to continue during the year.

**On Tuesday 26th September the photographers will be in taking individual and family photographs.**

- **If you want to include any pre-school children on the photographs, the photographers will be available from 8.30am to 9am to facilitate ‘family’ shots.**
- **Afternoon nursery will have their pictures taken in the nursery, again with any brothers or sisters in school, when they arrive for their session.**

**School uniform and coats – The children all look very smart in their new clothes, however we struggle to return items to their owners without names inside – please name all items.**

1. **Future dates** including, Parent’s Evenings / Infant celebration assemblies for the year ahead / holiday dates / Christmas activities / residential visits / INSET days and many others are all posted on the calendar section of the school website –please see – <https://floweryfieldschool.org.uk/tameside/primary/floweryfield/site/pages/calendar>
2. **Water Bottles** – to encourage the children to be independent and to look after their own equipment, we are no longer providing school water bottles. All children have access to water fountains within school and can bring in a named bottle from home, but please ensure that it has a ‘drinking top’ to avoid spillages- thanks.
3. **School routines** –the infant classrooms are open from 8.40am to allow you to drop off younger children before the junior children line up and go in at 10 to 9. (8.50am). Year 3 and 4 line up on the upper yard and year 5 and 6 on the lower yard (next to the farm.) At the end of the day the juniors come out at 3.05pm and the infant classes at 3.10pm. All **after school clubs** are dismissed from the back door of the hall at 4pm.
4. **PE Kits** – please ensure that your child has their P.E. kit in school and available for our sports and dance lessons and clubs. We have some of our royal blue T-shirts for sale at the main office, priced at £2 each. (Please put names in all kit.)
5. **School Attendance** – please help us to keep accurate records by notifying the teachers in writing or with a phone call when your child is ill. Some confusion seems to exist around term-time holidays. I cannot authorise these and taking such breaks can result in the LEA taking legal action.  
<http://floweryfieldschool.org.uk/tameside/primary/floweryfield/site/pages/attendance>
6. **INSET Day** – School is closed on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November (this is the Monday after half term.)
7. **Forest Schools** – This is a long term process that gives the children frequent and regular sessions of learning within the natural environment and fosters skills including planning, adaptation, observation and reviewing. We encourage children to take risks appropriate to themselves and the environment to build confident, independent and resilient individuals. Please help by ensuring that your child has his/ her forest school clothes in school when needed.
8. **Traffic management** – Our school is growing and will eventually have around 700 pupils! The layout of the staff car park, entrance road and drop off were all decided by the Council and the Department of Education when the new school was built and we have no available land or money to alter them. If all families wanted to drive into school, we would face an impossible gridlock. Fortunately, the majority either walk to school or park nearby and walk the last few

minutes. Nine registered disabled users regularly attend the site, but only four disabled bays were agreed at the planning stage. To help make the morning experience as easy as possible, school staff continue to man the drop off and will escort younger children into class; the yards are manned from 8.40am to allow older children to be left supervised and we have both sports and dance clubs that open at 8am, allowing families an earlier start thus reducing the traffic at the busiest time. (Parking in the drop off area results in frustrations for all, however the lack of disabled facilities sometimes makes this necessary.) The entrance is open through the old infant school site allowing access from Lodge Lane where parking is easier. The new, push chair-friendly gate on Birdcage Walk allows access to the back of school from both upper Lodge Lane and Bennett Street. I *thank all families* who do walk, cycle or 'park n' stroll' and encourage others to consider doing likewise – if you do feel that your only option is to drive into school, then patience, consideration and driving very slowly is the best advice I can offer.

9. **Payments to school** – All payments are made using the “parent pay” facility. If you have any questions or difficulties with this system, please contact the office staff who will be happy to help. Please make all *dinner money payments* for junior children promptly for the week ahead. You will appreciate that school has no money to subsidise unpaid lunches. (All children from Reception to Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal as part of the Universal Meal Entitlement scheme.)
10. **“Flowery Friends Group”** – we have an active PTA group who organise a series of enjoyable events that take place during the year. The group welcomes any new members. Please talk to Mrs Silk or Mrs Jeffers and they will happily introduce you to the team. See the website for further details <https://floweryfieldschool.org.uk/tameside/primary/floweryfield/site/pages/pta>
11. **School Farm.** A huge thank you to those children and families who looked after some of our animals during the summer holiday. All, except the ponies, are back now and our new farm team is busy with their upkeep and welfare. For those of you who are new to Flowery Field, we welcome visits to the farm (before school is a popular time), but please do not try and feed the animals or push your fingers through – the ponies and goats will think that they are being fed and may nip you!
12. **Play time, toast snacks** – we offer the children toast each day (juniors) and on Fridays for infants. (10p a slice.) We use wholemeal bread and sunflower spread. This is a litter-free, healthy and affordable snack option, however we rely upon the help of “toast volunteers” – if you can spare an hour on a regular day (come in after 9.30am) then your help would be greatly appreciated.
13. **Asthma** – please keep us informed about any Asthma medication that you child may need and please ensure that the blue inhalers are in school in case they are needed.
14. **GKR Karate** – this outside provider runs courses based in our school hall on a Monday evening. Leaflets giving details are available outside the main office.
15. **Year 5** – our year 5 classes are trialling ‘on-line’ homework for maths during this half term. Please speak with the year 5 staff if you encounter any problems or want further information.
16. **Questions / Concerns** – in the first instance, please refer any questions or concerns to your child’s teacher – all staff are happy to help or are able to refer you to someone who can.

**Best wishes and thanks for your continuing support –**

**Mr Fell**

**PS – one final request – please regularly check the school website for the latest news and updates-**