

Puddletown CEVC First School

'Inspiring learners to be the best they can be'

Newsletter No. 1

7th September 2018

Dear Parent,

It is great to be able to welcome you all back to Puddletown First School and offer an especially warm welcome to all our new parents. I hope that by working in partnership you and your child has a really happy year.

As ever there will be lots going on at school, we have put all of the planned dates on to the calendar on our website please do take time to look at it.

Communication

As was the case last year we will not be sending out any paper copies of letters unless you have arranged this with the office. All our letters will be available through our website and the Eschools app. Please do make sure that you have downloaded this and logged on. We will also be setting up a class page on Eschools so you can keep up to date with your child's activities. All of our new parents will receive a letter explaining this with their personal password. Those of you unable to access the app will receive a text alert to let you know a new letter is on the website.

However, this only works if we have up to date contact information; phone number, mobile number and email address. To ensure that we are able to keep your child safe we also require an emergency contact number. This would enable us to contact someone if you were unavailable for any reason. If we found ourselves unable to contact either yourself or the emergency contact then there could be situations where we would contact social services.

Schoolcomms

This is our online payment and booking system for clubs and our out of hours provision. Please make sure that you are registered on the system. This can be done by clicking on the link on the school website and following the registration process.

Attendance and Holidays

As a school we believe that good attendance is crucial to achieving the best outcomes for your child. We believe that attendance of 95% or better over the year constitutes good attendance. Where attendance is below this we will contact you to ensure that you are aware and support you in ensuring that attendance can improve over time. This may mean attending a Local Authority panel. It is Local Authority policy to issue a penalty for poor attendance including unauthorised holiday. The fine currently stands at £60 per child per parent rising to £120 if it isn't paid within 21 days.

Reading!

Just another plea to make sure that you are reading regularly at home with your child and that your child's reading diary is kept up to date. Reading makes so much difference!

Clubs

No clubs will be running this week or next week however we will let you know when they will start.

Parking

I know that this is a regular item but it is a very important one. Please do ensure that you park carefully and considerately outside the school. One easy solution for those using cars is to park away from the road by using the Rec car park which has a path leading to the dropped kerb outside our school. Can I also remind you that the school car park should not be used for parking or as a walk through out of the school as we have a number of school buses using the car park meaning it is unsafe for pedestrians.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Supervision at the end of the day

Please do ensure that all your children are well supervised at the end of the day. A younger sibling peering through a classroom window can cause quite a lot of disruption in that class. Also a number of learning resources may be laid out ready for the children the following day and it is frustrating for staff when these are disturbed.

Breakfast/after school club and the end of the day

Please make sure that you have booked your child into breakfast or after school club using **School comms**. Last year we had a number of children attending our provision when they had not been booked in which impacts on the staff/child ratio. You must ensure that your booking has been confirmed on Schoolcomms.

Please ensure that you collect your child promptly at the end of the session. We will be more proactive in issuing a late collection penalty this year.

In addition where children are not collected at the end of the day at 3.15pm the child will be put into after school club and parents would be charged a session rate of £4. Clearly some delays are unavoidable please do contact the school office at the earliest opportunity to advise us of any problems you may have.

We are really looking forward to the year ahead with you and your child. Watching each child discover their uniqueness is the pleasure and privilege of working in education meaning that while the pattern of the year may be familiar the way it develops is always new and different!

Communication

If you need to contact me at all please do catch me on the gate in the morning, contact the school office or email me head@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk I would love to know how your child's first week has gone.