



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school after what I hope was a lovely summer break. We've been blessed with such beautiful weather. It is good to see the children have returned safe and well. A special **welcome** to all our new children and families who have joined us in Foundation 1 and 2 - we look forward to watching you grow and develop over the coming years.

This newsletter provides some early information about the school year. Please read it carefully so you are informed about all that's going on in school.

## Dates for your diary

Thurs 1 Sept	Return to school
Fri 23 Sept	INSET – School Closed
Wed 5 Oct	Parent / Carer Consultations
Fri 14 Oct	Break up for Half Term
Mon 31 Oct	Children return to school Black History Week

## Nut Allergies

We have several children in school with nut allergies. **It is essential that no food is brought in to school with nuts in.** Please check food labels well.



## Attendance and Punctuality

Every child must attend school each day if at all possible. Please support us by ensuring your child is in school by 8:50am, so they can enter class on time. The school gate will be locked each day at 8:55am. If your child arrives late, **you must sign them in at the school office. They should not enter school alone.**

Our school attendance stands at 91% today. This is unacceptable and I believe, in the main, is caused by families extending the summer holiday by a few days. I ask for your support in ensuring holidays are taken in the breaks we have throughout the school year.

Please understand that **no holidays** can be authorised and now that things are more settled regarding COVID, there can be no exceptions.

If you receive a letter regarding your child's lateness today, please reflect on the implications for your child by missing this lesson time. As I mention in the letter, sometimes lateness is unavoidable, I do appreciate this, but I hope we can work in partnership to improve all attendance going forwards where possible.

## Arbor Transition

Thank you for your continued patience with the ordering of school meals. As you know, MyEd did not meet the school's needs and some parents continue to struggle with it, even a year after its introduction. Therefore, we are moving to Arbor for further services. I hope this platform will be easier to navigate, more user friendly and enables the office to work more efficiently. Unfortunately, the transition is not going smoothly, which is frustrating.

I know many are struggling at present with access to MyEd, which we are using until Arbor is set up. We are inputting meals via the office where access isn't possible in the short term. Watch out for further updates.

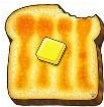
## Birthday treats

If your child chooses to bring a treat in for the class on their birthday, please make sure that it is **one simple sweet/treat. Party bags and birthday cakes will not be handed out by the class teacher.** We do not want to encourage people to spend money on unnecessary treats.



### Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club starts at 7:50am and the last entry to have breakfast is at 8:30am. Please pre-book to ensure there is space – on My Ed for now!



### Flu Immunisations Rec (F2) – Y6

These will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> November. Watch out for an e-mail. Please consider signing your child up for the good of your child and the health of the school community.



[Please refer to the email sent by the school office.](#)

### School Uniform

Children have started the school term looking very smart - there are just a few reminders. Please ensure your child wears a sky-blue **shirt – not a polo shirt**. Jumpers should be **V-neck** so the school tie can be seen clearly. Earrings should be small studs and headbands/clips must be simple and the school colours – no bright colours or large decorated bobbles please.

Uniform will be closely monitored this year and your teacher has been instructed to speak to parents where children repeatedly aren't wearing full school uniform. Notes will be made in your child's school diary when your child does not meet the school uniform expectations.

### Parent and Visitor Code of Conduct

All visitors including parents/carers are expected to:

**Speak kindly to staff and each other**

**Live by our school values**

**Bring children to school on time**

**Make an appointment if concerns arise**

If you wish to make an appointment to see a class teacher or the Head Teacher, please contact the school office by telephone or email. Teaching staff do not have time in the morning to speak to families, but may have time after school for short chats.

**Telephone:** 0115 9151799

**Email:** [admin@smca.nottingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@smca.nottingham.sch.uk)

### St Mary's Behaviour and Discipline Policy

This policy is being reviewed and a draft will be sent to you in the coming days. Please read the policy and if you wish to offer any feedback, contact the school office and I will gladly meet with parents to discuss your contributions.

The policy additions include:

- How we promote Catholic Virtues
- Explicit descriptions of expected behaviour around school
- Uniform conformance

The policy will be reviewed at the Local Governing Body meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September when it will be approved, all being well.

### New Play Equipment

Over the summer, we have benefited from some work being completed on our school grounds. This includes: gym equipment, KS2 climbing area, a trim trail on the field and new flooring in EYFS. We hope in the near future to complete the decking and create a peace garden.

The children are very excited and have spent the first few days back at school enjoying them. Please remain off the play equipment first thing in the morning when the playground is very busy. Children should be preparing to come into school.

Thank you for your on-going support. *Anne-Marie Bell*