

Reception Newsletter

Autumn 1 2017

A very warm welcome to all our new children and their families to Old Palace Primary.

We understand that this is a big step for many of our children moving from a Nursery setting into Primary school, therefore we would like to reassure parents that we endeavour to make reasonable adjustments to help the smooth transition for all our pupils.

We hope they have enjoyed their first two weeks with us so far, and we are very excited to be working with them and their families. If you do have any queries, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the Reception team.

Staffing:

Mrs Rahman (Assistant Headteacher – Assistant Headteacher – EYFS Lead)

RD: Ms Dawson (Class Teacher), Ms Carroll (Nursery Nurse)

RB: Ms Begum (Class Teacher) Sue (Nursery Nurse)

Rahela (Teaching Assistant for both classes) Maryam (Learning support assistant)

School times: School starts at 9.00am and finishes at 3.20pm for Reception pupils. Please collect your child from reception first, before collecting their older siblings, if any. If parents are running late, children will be sent to the school office.

Collection list: It is important that you have provided the school with the names of the adults you wish your child to be collected from school. Any adults not on the list will be refused collection. Children's safety is paramount to us at all times, we appreciate that there may be instances when you need to make alternative arrangements, so you should always inform the school office before the end of the school day.

Spare Clothes: Please bring a set of spare clothes for your child and leave this on their peg with their name clearly marked on the bag. This will allow us to attend to children quickly without the need to call you.

Also, please put your child's name on ALL of their clothing (coats, shirts, jumpers, trousers, etc). This will help to prevent any misplaced items of clothing.

Autumn 1 Topic

This half term our topic is 'Ourselves'. At the beginning of this half term we will focus mainly on self-confidence, building relationships, and feelings. We will be encouraging children to become aware of their own feelings and to accept the needs of others, as well as building relationships with their peers and adults. Children will also have the opportunity to talk about their own families, friends and culture, showing interests of people who are familiar to them. We will help children to identify what makes them unique, and talk about similarities and differences between their own family and others.

Activities include:

- Looking at family and baby pictures of each other
- Making a family tree
- Celebrating special occasions e.g Diwali, Birthdays
- Drawing self portraits (using mirrors and discussing features)
- Circle time (Discussing interests, feelings and becoming familiar with routine and the Golden Rules.
- Role playing (Home corner)
- Dressing up in cultural clothes

To support this topic, we would appreciate it if parents could bring in any family/baby photos (these will be returned on the same day) by Thursday 21st September, this will help the teachers to use the photos for the following week's activities.

Trips and visits

This half term as the children are new to the school, we are staying close by. To link with our topic on 'Myself' we will be taking the children around the local area to talk about where we live and our local community. We will take the children to play in the local park (Bobs Park). Children will be taken out on short trips to the local shops as part of their class work.

Homework

A lot of parents have been querying about homework for this half term. As they are settling, our main focus will be to ensure children are familiar with the routine of their classroom (including lunch time, Maths and Literacy sessions, circle time), school rules and supporting children in building relationships and confidence.

We will however, be issuing weekly blue key words and half termly homework booklets

for you to support your child at home.

Blue Key words: It is a national expectation that every child in Reception knows all 48 key words by the end of the year. To encourage this, every week we will be providing you with two key words so you can practise them at home with your child. Please encourage them to read, write and spell these from memory. The blue key words will be sent out every Friday with their book bags.

We will also provide each child with their own name card to encourage name writing, recognition and letter formation.

Homework Booklet: Children will be given a homework booklet at the end of half term, with activities to support their learning at home. It is essential that children are encouraged to complete this and returned in the first week back of the new half term.

Reading books: Every Friday your child will receive a levelled reading book and a book of their choice, It is very important that you read with your child **every day** and children become familiar with stories. Parents will receive a reading record book which requires you to write a comment on how your child has read or enjoyed the book. Reading record books will be monitored by the class teachers.

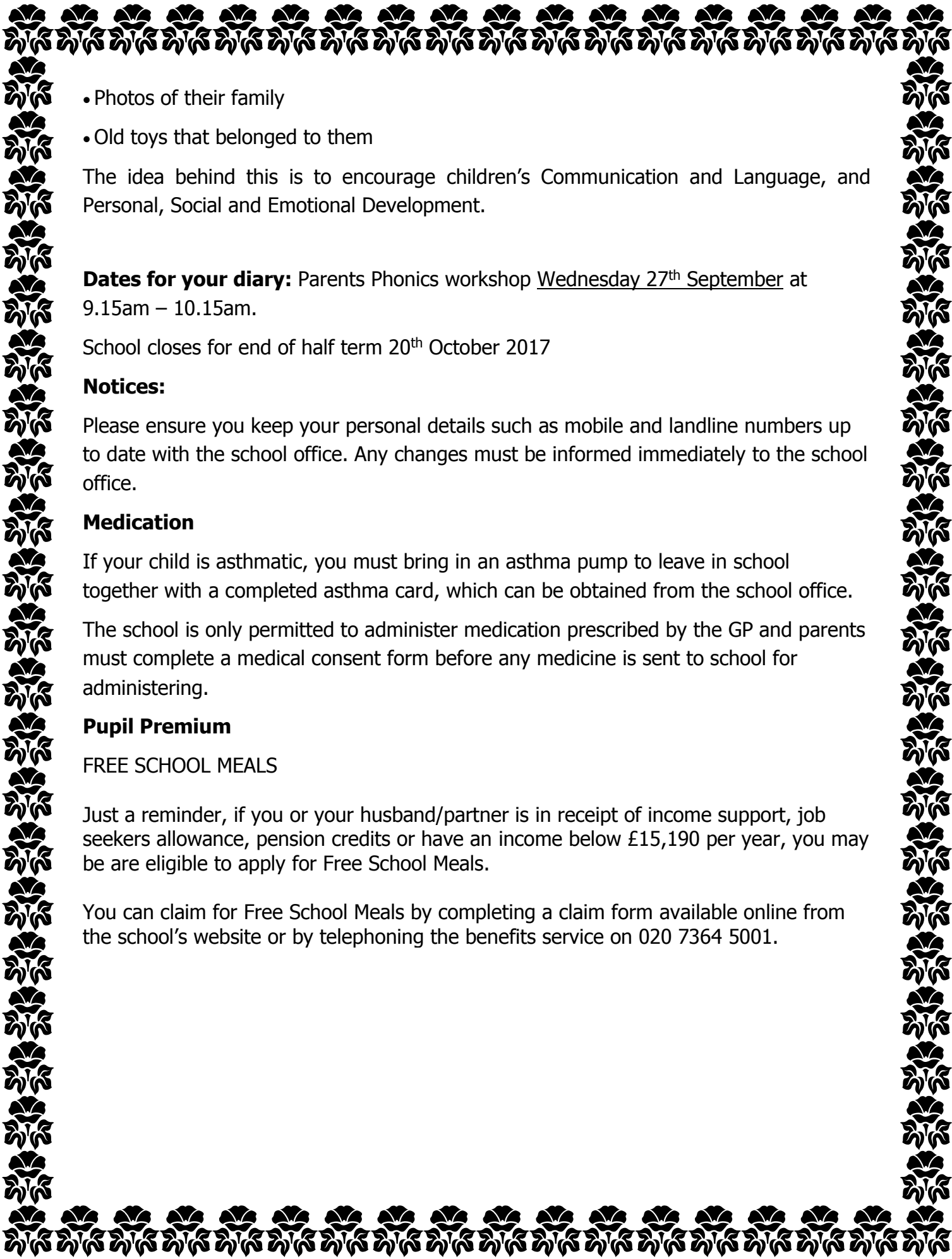
Books need to be returned every Friday in a book bag along with the blue words, in order for your child to receive a new set. Under no circumstances, will books be changed if the child has not brought in their book bag on the day specified or book is missing. ***The school charges £5 for any damaged or lost books!***

Friday reading with your child: We are encouraging and developing the love of reading and have planned an opportunity for you to join in. Therefore, we would like to invite parents and carers to come into their child's classroom and join in with reading, through sharing a wide range of books and spending time in a stimulating, friendly and language enriched environment on Fridays at 3pm. You are welcome to bring in your own collection of books and stories too. Friday reading will begin on 22nd September.

All About Me Box

We will be allocating two children to take home a large show and tell 'All About Me' box. The box is for your child to put in up to 5 things that are special to them, for them to bring to school and present to the class. The items can include:

- Items that belong to the child when they were a baby
- Photos of them on holiday or doing something exciting
- Favourite toy/teddy/car/book

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- A decorative border made of repeating black floral motifs surrounds the text on the page.
- Photos of their family
 - Old toys that belonged to them

The idea behind this is to encourage children's Communication and Language, and Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

Dates for your diary: Parents Phonics workshop Wednesday 27th September at 9.15am – 10.15am.

School closes for end of half term 20th October 2017

Notices:

Please ensure you keep your personal details such as mobile and landline numbers up to date with the school office. Any changes must be informed immediately to the school office.

Medication

If your child is asthmatic, you must bring in an asthma pump to leave in school together with a completed asthma card, which can be obtained from the school office.

The school is only permitted to administer medication prescribed by the GP and parents must complete a medical consent form before any medicine is sent to school for administering.

Pupil Premium

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Just a reminder, if you or your husband/partner is in receipt of income support, job seekers allowance, pension credits or have an income below £15,190 per year, you may be eligible to apply for Free School Meals.

You can claim for Free School Meals by completing a claim form available online from the school's website or by telephoning the benefits service on 020 7364 5001.