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Pashley Down Infant School

Kindness Positivity Honesty Resilience Respect Independence



Newsletter 1 – Tuesday 4th September

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to welcome you all back for the start of the 2025-26 academic year. It's always an exciting time as we welcome our new EYFS children and their families. My aim will be to learn all of their names by the time they have started full-time, so I will be keen on spending some focused time down in their classrooms doing my homework in the coming weeks.

Year 1 and Year 2 parents, we really look forward to seeing you at our Parent Forums next Tuesday and Wednesday mornings so we can launch the year with you!

Year 1 parent workshop- Tuesday 9th Sept 9am

Year 2 parent workshop- Wednesday 10th Sept 9am

We welcome Amy Jones into the Pashley Staff, as our SENCO. She will be working Monday to Wednesday, so please do have some patience while she settles in and gets herself adjusted to life at Pashley, but I know she is looking forward to being such an integral part of the school community.



I want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you and well done to my staff, who led the Little Adventurers Club over the summer holidays. For so many of our Teaching Assistants to take time out of their own summer holidays to support our families demonstrates just how lucky we are as a community and our plan will be to run this in the Summer Holidays next year.

I am very keen to ensure we can raise our attendance percentages, so that we are above the national average next year. I was delighted with how families responded to our target of wanting to reduce the number of pupils late every morning, so thank you for this. A reminder that children whose attendance is below 90%, are considered persistent absentees and it's the school's statutory duty to ensure we are responding to these and doing everything we can to ensure their attendance improves. The scrutiny on schools on what they are doing to improve attendance in their schools is significantly increasing every year, and therefore we will be continuing to be proactive in supporting families where we need to in this area.

One area where the school finds itself in a really challenging position currently is financially. In recent years the government increase in staff salaries, rises in electricity and gas bills, and a falling role in pupils in September 2024, whilst also a reduction in funds and resources in local government have had a significant impact on our budget. We are certainly not alone in this position, but we will be sending out information in the coming weeks asking for ways you may be able to support us in this area.

Finally, there will be times when you need to make arrangements that mean another parent, grandparent etc will need to pick your child up at the end of the day. The class teacher needs to be aware of this, otherwise they will not be able to send them home. Please do notify the school if somebody else is collecting your child who is not already in Arbor, and wherever possible, do this by 12.30pm on that day, so that teachers have the opportunity to see it before the end of the school day. This can be an email to the office or a dojo to your child's teacher.

We have been super organised this year and have collated the main key school events for the whole academic year in advance for parents. As many of you are looking after children at home or busy at work, we know advanced warning for school events is very welcome, so we have worked hard on getting this put together for you. Find attached the main school dates for your diary for the 2025-26 academic year.

Water bottles

We are keen to make sure that children keep 'topped up' with water during the school day. We ask that **only water** is put in bottles (not juice, nor squash). Water really is the best liquid for keeping hydrated, and to keep teeth safe. May we also remind parents **not** to put water bottles in book bags as books can get soggy. These can be purchased from the school office for the cost of £3.00 Thank you!

Tissues

Please would parents send in boxes of tissues to use in class. The Pashley tradition may seem unusual, but, especially in the season of sneezes and sniffles, it makes a lot of difference to class hygiene. Thanks!

Dogs

We would like to advise parents/carers that if you wish to bring your dog with you on the school run - you will need to tie them up well away from any entrance gates (main gate or Longland road entrance). Some children are afraid of dogs, so it can be difficult for them to have to walk in through a gate if they see a dog nearby. Dogs should not be brought onto the grounds (even if they are being carried) as they are a health and safety risk. Thank you!

PE kits and labelled clothing

Please ensure that all of your child's clothes are clearly labelled with their name, including their shoes and their coats. We will encourage the children to look after their possessions, but occasionally jumpers will become muddled. It is much easier to return clothing to the correct child if it is clearly labelled. Thank you for your support.

Cool Milk

School milk is available at a small cost for pupils over 5. If you would like your child to have milk at school then please apply online at www.coolmilk.com

Parking

We would like to remind all our parents about parking safely and legally when collecting and dropping off the children, both at the start and end of the day.

We respectfully ask to be mindful of private driveways and 'keep clear' road markings. Parking by the School can cause serious congestion at busy times and especially when cars need to reverse or manoeuvre. **Please also NEVER double park!**, as this can cause real disruption to local residents. We suggest a one way system driving up Beechy Avenue, turning right onto South Avenue.

Medicine

Please note, as per the school policy, we are unable to administer Analgesics such as Calpol, Nurofen, or Piriton unless they have been prescribed by a doctor and are clearly labelled with a pharmacy label. If your child requires a dose of non-prescribed medication during the school day, you are welcome to come into school to administer it yourself. This also applies to non-prescribed creams and eye drops, which we are not permitted to give.

If your child is prescribed any of these medications, please ensure they are brought to school in the original box with the pharmacy label attached. Medication should only be brought in if absolutely necessary.

As outlined in the policy, antibiotics are often prescribed in a way that avoids the need for a midday dose. Where possible, please arrange for morning/after school and evening doses at home. Medication should only be sent into school if a lunchtime dose is unavoidable. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.