



# Warley Road Academy

Newsletter No 5

18th December 2020



## CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



It's that time of year again and whilst I've always thought that years get shorter as I get older, this time, 2020 seems to have gone on forever! Like many of you, I'll be glad to start a new year with high hopes that sooner, rather than later life will return to normal. I look forward to meeting more parents in the building and sharing all the wonderful things the children have been doing, like the work on The Christmas Tree Festival, which has been fantastic.

Christmas is a time whether a practicing Christian or not to be with family and to take time to relax and unwind. I hope that all families can have a restful break and that despite the continuing challenging circumstances can enjoy spending time with loved ones.

We do have duty to track and trace Covid related cases up until the 23<sup>rd</sup> December and you will receive a separate newsletter with details about how to report any positive cases during the Christmas break. Please have a read of the newsletter, it has lots of useful information and reminders. On behalf of all the staff, governors and Impact team, stay safe and we will look forward to welcoming you back on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Lesley Heathcote**

### Social Media



A lot of parents and families have now found us on Twitter and have downloaded the school App. PLEASE make sure to have a look. We are able to post information about teaching and learning, sporting events and general information. The App (Warley Road Academy via School Jotter) is free and has all the up-to-date information and links you need.

We are in the process of updating our website, I am aware that some of the information is out of date. We have however, included a Coronavirus section, which has all the information relating to Covid Matters. The website does have home learning information, which has been completed this term and is updated regularly.

### Attendance



Whilst we have lots of children with fantastic attendance (96% and above), unfortunately, we have significant examples of inadequate attendance.

The Persistent attendance figure for Warley Road is 3x the national average at 21% for the Autumn term. Extended leave accounts for a significant amount of lost learning. **Extended leave of more than 20 days will result in the loss a school place.**

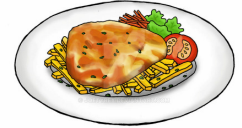
All holidays during term time **MUST** be discussed with a member of staff **BEFORE** being booked. Attendance rewards will be given at the end of this term and we will be rewarding children again during the Spring term.

**School closes today, 18th December, for the holidays and will re-open on Tuesday 5th January 2021**

School holidays



## School Meals & ParentPay



There seems to have been a lot of confusion over the last half term regarding children's meal patterns and ParentPay.

To help us provide tasty and affordable meals for our children we ask you to decide on your child's meal choice (School Dinners—SD or Packed Lunch from home—PL) for each day of the week. This can be all SD, all PL or a mixture of both, for example if your child only wants SD on Pizza day.

Once you have decided this, you **MUST** keep to that pattern for each half term. SPOT CHECKS are carried out to make sure children are keeping to their patterns.

As a school, we can not afford to waste food by cooking meals that are then not eaten. If you decide your child is having a school dinner but is then sent in with a packed lunch without notifying the school in advance for the reason, you will still be expected to cover the cost of this wasted meal.

**If you are unsure of your child's dinner pattern currently held on our system, please contact the School Office.**



ParentPay is the system everyone must now use to pay for school meals, trips, charity donations etc. We are no longer able to accept cash in our school. Even if your child does not pay for school meals or does not currently have them, you still need to activate your account.

**We currently still have 157 children's accounts that have not been activated.**

It is also very important that you pay for your children's meals and do not let your account get into debit. Again, we can not keep the cost of our meals down if regular payments to cover the cost of the meals are not made.

Please be aware that If you have an outstanding balance on your dinner money account, this must be paid in full by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Unfortunately, those children who have an outstanding balance after this date, will not be provided with a school dinner. If you have any queries, or would like to speak to anyone, please contact school.

**If we have asked you for a payment for meals but you feel you could be entitled to Free School Meals, please contact the Benefits office or ask for a Free School Meal application form at the School office.**

### **Starting School in September 2021**



If your child was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 they are due to start primary school in September 2021. **Please ensure that you apply for a school place online at [www.calderdale.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/admissions) by the closing date which is 15th January 2021.** You must still apply online even if your child already attends Nursery at Warley Road.

**School Uniform** - Just a reminder that children may continue to wear uniform with the old school logo until the end of next term. After the Easter holiday they will be expected to wear the new style sweatshirts which are available from The Uniform Shop on Union Street in Halifax.