



TILLINGTON MANOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Working together to achieve the best'

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Newsletter 1 - Spring 2020

Monday, 13th January 2020

Welcome Back

Welcome back to Tillington Manor Primary School for the new school term. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. Best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous 2020 from all of the staff at the school. We are all very much looking forward to the new term as we continue to work in partnership with children and parents to build on each child's learning and progress so far.



This term we welcome two new teachers to the staff at Tillington: Miss Burkitt will be teaching Reception on Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Dolan will be teaching Y3 on Wednesday afternoon and on Thursday and Friday. We also welcome the staff who will be working in the Cicely@Stafford provision that starts this term on our school site - Mrs Harvey, Mrs Crosby and Mr Bevan.

Penalty Notices for Attendance

Penalty notices for attendance are issued if:

- **a child has been persistently absent.** Persistently absent means 20 sessions (the equivalent of ten school days) of unauthorised absence over a period of 12 school weeks. The absences do not have to be consecutive.
- **there is a period of unauthorised leave (a period could be as little as one session that has not been approved), e.g. for holidays in term time.** Term time leave can only be authorised for exceptional circumstances.
- **a child is persistently late.** Persistently late means late for ten sessions over a period of 12 school weeks.
- **a child who has been excluded is in a public place during school hours during the first 5 days of an exclusion.**

Morning Registration - A reminder

Following a recent register inspection we have been advised that morning registration should close earlier than has been our practice in the past. From the start of this term, registers will close at 9.15am instead of 9.30am. Although children at Tillington Manor very rarely arrive as late as this, it will mean any child arriving after 9.15am, without an acceptable reason such as an appointment etc., will have to be marked as having an unauthorised absence.

Paths in to School

During the cold winter months, the safety of all people coming on to the school site is important to us. When there is a risk from icy conditions, every effort will be made to 'grit' a clear pathway to the doors children come in to school through. As the paths will be gritted an hour or so before the start of school and refreezing can occur, we ask children and parents to always be especially careful in these conditions.

Closure Procedures

As always every effort will be made to ensure the school remains open. If, however, due to heavy snow-falls, dangerous conditions etc., announcements are often made on local radio stations:

- Radio Stoke (FM 94.6)
- Signal Radio (FM 102.6)

Up-to-date information is also available on the County Council website, which keeps a list of all schools that have had to close. Please go to

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures/schoolclosurelist>

We will also endeavor to let parents know if we have to close through the 'Do-Jo' messaging system. If you are not currently accessing this, please speak to your daughter's/son's class teacher to find out what to do.

In making this decision, consideration will be given to: -

- The safety of all those travelling to school.
- The number of staff who are able to get to school safely in order to ensure the safe supervision of children on the school site.

Emergency Evacuation

If a situation arises, having evacuated the school, that means we were unable to return in to the school building, the children will be taken to St Bertelin's church on the Holmcroft Road. From here parents would be contacted to come and collect the children. Messages would initially be sent via the Do-Jo messaging system as well as by telephone. We would also try to get a message posted on the Tillington Parents Facebook page.

Social Networking Sites - A reminder

As we all know, social networking sites such as 'Facebook' are widely used and enjoyed by the majority of parents and older children. However, sometimes these sites are used to publicly discuss matters which may include personal disagreements between pupils at the School or for parents to vent frustration about school matters.

You may not be aware that comments made on Social Networking Sites about an individual can be considered to be 'defamatory' and lead to the onset of legal action being taken against those who made them, therefore I feel it is important to remind users of Social Networking Sites to bear this in mind before posting comments.

Social networking sites are not as 'private' as we might like to think and careless or inconsiderate use of these sites can cause unnecessary distress to the individuals concerned, or have an adverse impact on the School in general, or both and this is something the School seeks to avoid.

The School aims to create a happy environment for its staff and pupils and should any parent have any concerns, I would urge them to contact the School.

Please be aware....

We all know that the entrances to our school site on Young Avenue can get very busy. Recently it has been brought to our attention that some of our children, and occasionally parents/relatives collecting children, can find these crowded, congested situations difficult. Please be sensitive if you see anyone struggling at these busy times and try to ensure their pathway in to school is as clear as possible. Thank you for your help with this.

Thank you for the continuing help and support which parents provide for the children of Tillington Manor Primary School.

Important Diary Dates - Spring Term, 2020

Monday, 13 th January	6.00pm - Meeting for Y6 parents about the Y6 SATs tests - Mrs Turner's classroom
Tuesday, 14 th January	KS2 classes go to 'The Prince and the Pauper' at the New Vic (morning performance) EYFS and KS1 have the production of Cinderella Pantomime in school.
Wednesday, 15 th January	Y5/6 - Young Voices at The Genting Arena, Birmingham
Tuesday, 4 th February	4.00pm to 7.00pm - Parents Consultation meetings with the class teacher (a chance to discuss your child's progress) - Entrance in to school will be via Door 1 at the Main Office.
Monday, 17 th February To Friday, 21 st February	Half Term holiday
Friday, 3 rd April	School closes for the Easter holiday.

Please also look out for additional letters/messages containing information about events and activities that have been arranged for the different classes.