

# Mr. Hatton's Newsletter

## 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Welcome back to a brand new school year! It has been lovely to see the children today after the summer break and hear their news. We have started the new year with a whole school assembly this morning. I must say thank you to our parent/carers for how smart our pupils look in their uniform and I expect this high standard to be maintained throughout the year. We have lots planned over the coming months so please keep up to date with events and information via the school website ([www.robyparkprimary.co.uk](http://www.robyparkprimary.co.uk)) or via our Twitter account (@RobyParkSchool).

### Welcome to Roby Park:

I offer a very warm welcome to our new starters in Reception class and their families who join our Roby Park family today. We look forward to working with you to help your child reach their true potential throughout their learning journey with us. We also extend a big welcome to the new children joining some of older classes this week - we hope you settle in well and make lots of friends.



### Mrs South:

As many of you will be aware, Mrs South, was absent from school during the summer term due to ill health. After a lot of thought and consideration with her family, Mrs South has taken the decision to retire from her role as Learning Mentor from Roby Park. For those of you who knew Mrs South in her various roles within school - you will know she supported many of our pupils and families through difficult times, worked with children to build their self esteem and confidence as well as working tirelessly to improve attendance and supporting the staff with behaviour strategies for children. She will be greatly missed by pupils, staff and our parents/carers too I'm sure. I am sure you will join us in wishing Mrs South a long and happy retirement with lots of exciting adventures ahead with her family.



### Staffing Update:

In light of Mrs South's retirement, I am delighted to announce that Mr Lundon will be taking on the role of our Learning Mentor as of today. Mr Lundon brings a wealth of experience to the role and is also already familiar with some of our pupils and families. There will be plenty of opportunities over the coming weeks for pupils and parents/carers to get to know Mr Lundon. Also, we welcome our new teaching assistant, Mrs Hamblin, who is joining our Y3 team to work alongside Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Lamb.



### Uniform/Belongings:

I urge all parents/carers to please make sure that your child's uniform especially jumpers, cardigans, PE kits and coats are clearly labelled with your child's name. We find far too many items of clothing left around school that are not labelled which is a shame as parents/carers have spent good money on making sure their child looks smart. We can't help find or locate items of lost clothing if you do not label them!



### PE:

Pupils **must** have their PE kits in school as of tomorrow so that they are prepared for PE lessons each week. PE kits consist of white t-shirts, black shorts and plain black pumps/trainers. Kits **will** remain in school until the end of the half term to ensure that all pupils can participate in PE lessons which is a statutory requirement.



### Pupil Planners:

Our pupils in Year 1 - 6 have been issued with a new planner. Planners are aimed to help build links between home and school and aid organisation. Please ensure that planners are in school every day as teachers use the planners to teach from and your child may be asked to read to a member of staff and this needs to be recorded in their planner. This week parents/carers have been asked to sign the home/school agreement and internet/photograph consent pages of the planner so that we have accurate records in school which help us to safeguard the children correctly - please fill these sections in if you haven't done so already. ***If your child should lose their planner, replacements can be purchased from the office for £3.50.***



### Contact Details:

Mrs Rothwell will be updating school records as we begin a new year. It is vitally important that we have up to date telephone numbers for safeguarding reasons and should we need to contact you during the school day if your child was to become unwell or upset. All forms that are sent home must be completed and returned to school. Medical forms must be completed so we have up to date information about specific conditions, allergies or needs so that school can be aware in order to help and support your child. Even if your child has no medical needs, please return the form so that our records are accurate.



### School Dinners:

If your child has moved into Year 3 this year, you may or may not be aware of the school dinner arrangements. Year 3 pupils are no longer entitled to a free school dinner as the offer is only open to Reception, Year 1 and 2 pupils. The cost of school dinners for the week is \*\*\*\* which **must** be paid every Monday. We advise weekly payments so that parents/carers don't run up a high bill. If you need information on how to claim free school meals then please see Mrs Rothwell in the school office for more details.



### Attendance and Punctuality:

As part of our School Improvement Plan for 2017/18 and one of our areas for improvement set by OFSTED, Mr Lundon and I will be working closely with pupils and families who have been identified as causing concern with their poor attendance and punctuality last year. A tougher stance will be taken as of this year with penalty warnings and fines being issued to families. School attendance has a huge impact on how OFSTED view our school and the grading that we are awarded and this is a key area where we need support from our families. Our school attendance target for this year is 96% which will meet the national average and support our journey back to a 'good' grading.



### Diary Dates 2017/18:

We will be issuing the key diary dates for the whole school year at the end of this week for our parents/carers. We hope this will further improve communication between home and school and allow families time to plan to attend events with plenty of time - particularly if time off from work is needed. Please look out for these in your child's bag.



### Parking:

A reminder to everyone at the start of the year to park sensibly and considerately outside of school to ensure the safety of our pupils. We received complaints from local residents last term about driveways being blocked, speeding and accidents nearly being caused. Drop off and pick up times can be congested so your support and consideration with this is much appreciated.



*Have a good week,  
Mr. Hatton*