



Eccleston Mere Primary School

August Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that all children and families are enjoying the summer break, despite the very changeable weather. As the new term approaches, I wanted to compose a short newsletter, to assist with a smooth transition back into school.

Miss Hughes

We are delighted to announce that children in Year 1, Oak Class will be taught by Miss Hughes this year. Miss Hughes is known to our school, having covered several classes last year. We are confident that she will be a valuable addition to our staff team.

Children moving into Oak class met Miss Hughes during the interview process- she taught a lesson about imagining a visit to the beach. The class responded well to the session and can look forward to an exciting year ahead.

We apologise for the short notice of this announcement, but unfortunately this was out of our hands, due to the timing of the appointment and subsequent clearances that were required. Parents will be able to talk to Miss Hughes during the 'Meet the Teacher' as we return.

Jewellery

I would like to take this opportunity to remind families that earrings and other jewellery are not permitted in school. The only exception to this rule is the wearing of wristwatches (that cannot record or take photographs).

I sought clarity from the Health and Safety Department in St Helens, and they were clear that our approach is in line with all DfE (Department for Education) / AFPE (Association for PE) advice and guidance. The following is school policy, in line with the afore mentioned guidance.

Where ears have been pierced over the summer holidays, parents can place tape over the earrings, prior to the start of the school day. This may continue until the six-week period of 'settling' is complete. Tape needs to be secure, otherwise children may be unable to partake in some elements of physical activity.

In the instance that earrings are being worn on the grounds of religious or cultural obligation, this needs to be clarified in writing to the Headteacher. Religious artefacts need to be removed or made safe during PE sessions, as Health and Safety laws usually takes precedence in such circumstances.

Please be understanding that the removal of earrings is not a personal decision made by myself, or by the school. It is a decision made in order to meet health and safety standards required of us, in order to keep children safe.

Meet the Teacher

As in previous years, we will be holding 'Meet the Teacher' meetings on our first week back in school. These meetings will be held online, with links sent to parents. We have attempted to space these meetings across two days, in consideration of families with children in more than one class.

The dates / times for these meetings are as follows:

Wednesday 6 th September	4.00-4.30- YR / Y1 Class 4.30-5.00- Y2 Class / Y3 Class
Thursday 7 th September	4.00-4.30- Y4 Class 4.30-5.00- Y5/6 Class

Year 6 Swimming

The Year 6 class (both Willow and Chestnut class) will be swimming in the first Autumn half-term, each Wednesday between 1-2pm, starting on Wednesday 6th September.

For these sessions, children will need to bring:

- A towel
- Swimwear- trunks **or** shorts that are no longer than mid-thigh length, without pockets **or** a one-piece swimsuit (bikinis are not permitted)
- Swimming caps, unless hair is tied back.

The above guidance is from the swimming instructors, who also advise that goggles are not worn, unless a medical condition requires this to be so.

We look forward to seeing you all back with us, on Tuesday 5th September.

Mr Mugan