



Newsletter

Week 2

Friday 14th September 2018

Monday 17 th September	Music lessons: Ukulele and Brass After School: Choir Governor's Meeting
Tuesday 18 th September	Music lessons: Keyboard and Woodwind After School: Football (Years 4, 5 and 6)
Wednesday 19 th September	Music lessons: Violin After School: 'Beatlets' Music (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Thursday 20 th September	Music lessons: Guitar After School: Football (Years 1, 2 and 3)
Friday 21 st September	

Attendance Trophy

This week's winners are Class 4 with 99.69% attendance.

Class 1 – 96.7%

Class 2 – 95.76%

Class 3 – 99.67%

Class 5 – 99.37%

Average class attendance this week is 98.24%. This is a good start to the year. The school has a target of 96.5%. This can only be achieved with your help. Last year we missed our school target.



Stars of the Week



Elliott Smith, Isla Lightfoot, Albie Richards, Callum Ball, Sienna Sharma, Faith Ali, Dougi Waddington, Zak Taylor, Darcy Howarth



Health and Wellbeing



All children need to have a P.E. kit in school. This should consist of: shorts, plain white t-shirt, pumps for indoors (children can have bare feet), trainers for outdoors, plain jogging pants and a plain sweatshirt.

Names need to be written on all items in permanent pen – including shoes. P.E. kits should be taken home regularly for laundering; you would be amazed how quickly they become dirty.

Most P.E. lessons will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Long hair must be tied back and **all jewellery must be removed**. All children have to take part in P.E. as it is a requirement of the National Curriculum – just like English and Maths.

PARK RUN

Milnrow are starting a Junior Parkrun from **Sunday 14 October** in the memorial park.

A junior parkrun is 2k and will be held every Sunday at 9am. Children need to register for free at <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/events/juniorevents/>. They will get a barcode which they should print off and bring with them, which will then record the time of their run at the end. For any parents or children that have done the 5k parkrun, it is exactly the same process and those already registered will not need to register again.

There are going to be a couple of "test" runs during September but the main launch is on Sunday 14th October. It's a great way for the kids to get some exercise and potentially get into running and should be a good atmosphere with some of their friends around!

For any parents who would be happy to help out marshalling the lady who is organising it from Parkrun is Barbara – Barbara.bayliss@parkrun.com. A junior parkrun needs quite a few more Marshalls than the general parkrun so any volunteers would be very welcome (they don't need to commit to every week).

Healthy Tuck Shop

The school tuck shop opens on Monday selling healthy break time snacks to children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6. All of the snacks fit in with the healthy school policy. Each item costs 50p. The shop will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Appropriate Clothing

At this time of the year, the weather can turn suddenly and quite often the weather in the afternoon is completely different to that of the morning. Please can you make sure that your child has a coat in school to cope with the weather for the day. We like to take the children outside as often as possible. There are a couple of spare coats in school – but not many. It is better to err on the side of caution and send a coat into school with your child anyway.

Walk to School

All children are now registered on the '**walk to school tracker**'. The aim is to encourage children to walk, scoot or cycle to school, rather than come in a car. **Scooters must be walked across the yard** and not ridden. This fits in really nicely with the school aim of reducing obesity levels in our children – what are way above the national average. Please support your children with this project by either walking the full distance or parking the car away from school and then walking. Suitable places to park include: Milnrow Park, Hough Lane, the Cedar Tree and Two Bridges Road. Please be mindful of not blocking access to houses and pathways.

The school car park is too small for all the staff to be able to use – so therefore do not use the school car park between 8.00am and 4.30pm.

Parental Engagement

Parents Forum

This will be an opportunity to speak with Mrs Williams and Miss Hobbs about anything to do with school. It could be an idea you've had, an issue that you feel needs addressing or it could just be for a general chat about school. These will be held once every half term either in School or in the Church. This term, the forums will be held on Wednesday 17th October and Thursday 29th November. Both will start at 2.00pm.

Workshops for Parents

This term there will be two workshops for parents to attend. The first will be on Thursday 4th October and will focus on the acquisition of language and the importance it plays in a child's education. The second will be based on helping your child with reading and writing and this will take place on Thursday 6th December. Both sessions will start at 2.00pm.

Volunteers

If you have any time to spare during the school day – we are looking for parents/grandparents to listen to children read. Volunteers are required to have an enhanced DBS check and comply with the Safer Working Practices Policy and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018. This will be done by school.

Admissions

Admission to Secondary School 2019

The Secondary School application process is now open. You can apply for a place up until **31st October 2018**. It is an easy process – but if you need help, please contact Mrs Whittles or Mrs Milne who can support you with the process. Applicants can also call 0300 3030340 or call into any library in the borough.

The information and forms needed can be found on www.rochdale.gov.uk.

Missing the deadline for applications can have consequences for families, as it can mean not being allocated a place at your preferred school. It is also really important that parents use all preference places as only putting one will not mean that your child will definitely be allocated a place at that school – you will be offered the nearest available place (not necessarily in close proximity of our home) if you do not get offered your first choice and alternatives haven't been listed.

The competition for places in the Pennine area has been fierce over the past couple of years and it is expected that there will be fierce competition again this year. It is really important that you put yourself in the best position possible to get the place at the secondary school you want.

Admission to Primary School 2019

The application process will open shortly. However, prospective parents are invited to make an appointment to look around St. Thomas' or alternatively there is an open afternoon on **Tuesday 30th October at 2.00pm**. The closing date is usually the middle of January.

