



29/04/16

Dear Parents

We are back to our normal newsletter, rather than one written by the local authority today. We know that the subject of school funding is quite difficult and that it is quite unclear from reports what the government is intending to do. However, the main message from last week seems to be that funding of schools in Newham is under threat from the latest proposals from the Government. Anything that parents can do to express their worry about cuts in funding for our local schools will help in maintaining the quality of education for your children. Contacting the local MP or getting involved in the consultation process are ways that this can be done.

As we have had these warnings from the local authority, we are also looking at other ways that we can ensure that we maintain the level of funding that we receive, and the quality of education for your children. One way that we have mentioned a few times in the newsletter is by maximising the number of children who have applied for free school meals. Children who have free school meal entitlement also bring in 'pupil premium' funding to the school. The money is focussed on ensuring that pupil premium children make excellent progress at school but the extra programmes of support will also help other children. We understand that in Newham there is no incentive to apply for free school meals as everyone can receive them. However, the extra funding from pupil premium will be of particular benefit to the child that has applied for it but will help the whole school. We encourage all parents to apply for the funding if they think there is any possibility that they might be entitled. Entitlement is based on receiving benefits and the school office can provide advice on this.

Please note that the school is closed for a couple of days next week. It is May day on Monday 2nd and then the school will be used as a polling station for the London elections on Thursday 5th. Later in the term, the school will also be closed on Thursday June 23rd for the referendum on the European Union. We are sorry for any inconvenience these closures cause but we would encourage you to help us by talking to your children about the votes. In assemblies and lessons, we are encouraging children to think about the elections and how they will affect their lives. We will be holding similar votes in schools to give the children a chance to experience the process of voting and democracy. The school will not encourage children to vote in any particular way but we will try to give them a neutral idea of the issues that are involved. We will explain about the process of voting and how important it is to be involved in the things that are going on. We want children to be interested in these things and to want to play a part in the process of choosing leaders and policies that will rule them. You can help us in this aim by talking to the children about what you think about the issues and explaining the different viewpoints that different parties or groups have. Nearer the election, some of the children may present their views to the rest of the school before the voting process happens. Thank you for your support in making the children as well informed as we can and in encouraging them to be involved in the processes.

The final item in this week's newsletter is again, I am afraid, something that we have mentioned a few times before. We have been really focussed for a few years on keeping our attendance as high as we can. Since the Spring term, it has been a major focus as we had a lot of children out with chicken pox and a vomiting fever. This brought our attendance figures right down and meant that a lot of children missed days or weeks of education. As these illnesses have now passed through the school, we are having a concerted drive to move our attendance back up to national or above national averages. We need children to make up for the time they have missed to ensure that they remain successful in the school. This has meant we have had to be particularly tight on any requests for time off school during term time.

I am afraid that we are unable to grant time for holiday in term time unless it is under really exceptional circumstances. I know this means they are more expensive but we feel, and the Government has said, that the children's education must be the higher priority. We would therefore encourage you to plan early to try to get the cheapest holiday travel during holiday periods. To date, we have not fined parents for taking their children out of school and we would not want to have to start to use this measure.

I am sorry that this newsletter has focussed on many of the present worries for the school around funding and attendance. We will have more letters that will celebrate the great achievements of children at the school over the coming weeks. Thank you to all the parents who do ensure that their children attend really well and are as enthusiastic and keen to learn as most New City pupils are.

Thank you for your continued support in this.

NOTICES

Please make sure you contact Mandy if your child is attending breakfast club or after school club so she knows that they are coming. Pick up for after school club is strictly by 6pm. Her phone number is 07956 515258

Thank you to all the parents who have now stopped double parking in the morning on New City Road. Mr Wareham will continue to patrol this entrance for a while to discourage unsociable car use. Why not walk, scoot or ride? This will reduce traffic congestion and keep everyone healthy.

WEEK 4	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FISH CHOICE	HERBY COD FILLET WITH COUS COUS AND SPICY TOMATO SAUCE	TUNA AND SWEETCORN PIZZA	TUNA AND SALAD WRAP	COD FILLET WITH CHEESE SAUCE AND POTATOES	FISH IN BATTER WITH CHIPS
MEAT CHOICE	CHICKEN TIKKA WRAP WITH PEPPERS AND ONIONS	COTTAGE PIE	ROAST CHICKEN AND STUFFING WITH ROAST OR BOILED POTATOES	LAMB BURGER IN A BUN WITH SALAD	LAMB KEEMA WITH NAAN BREAD AND RAITA
VEGETARIAN CHOICE	SPAGHETTI AND QUORN MEATBALLS IN TOMATO SAUCE	QUORN AND SWEET POTATO CURRY WITH RICE	BUTTERNUT SQUASH MACARONI CHEESE	VEGETARIAN CHILLI WITH RICE AND TORTILLA	ITALIAN POTATO AND MIXED BEAN BAKE
VEGETABLE SELECTION	MIXED VEGETABLES GREEN BEANS	SWEETCORN PEAS	FRESH SEASONAL VEGETABLES	BROCCOLI CARROTS	BAKED BEANS PEAS
DESSERT	PEACHES AND ICE CREAM	JAM AND COCONUT SPONGE WITH CUSTARD	CHOCOLATE MOUSSE	STRAWBERRY AND KIWI CHEESECAKE	FRUIT, JELLY AND ICE CREAM

