



Tiverton Academy

Newsletter



October 2021

Dear Parents

We have had an extremely positive start to this academic year and it is lovely to see the children entering school each day with a smile on their face! Life in school is slowly returning back to normal now that the restrictions have been lifted and we have only experienced a handful of positive cases in the Early Years. We are continuing to promote good hygiene with the children and we are keeping the rooms well ventilated as well as maintaining enhanced cleaning regimes.

The children have been enjoying their new topics, playing tournaments against other schools and we are currently planning class trips.

As ever, we seem to be hurtling towards Christmas and have already booked a visiting theatre company for EYFS and KS1. KS2 will be travelling by train to Birmingham City Centre to the Old Rep to watch 'Alice in Wonderland'. More details will follow shortly. At Tiverton, we have always provided a broad and balanced curriculum with a strong focus on the Arts and Music and it is a positive step being able to plan enrichment activities for the children.

I would like to thank you immensely for the donations of food and items for Harvest. Although we are not able to celebrate together in the church this year, we will ensure that your donations are given to Cotteridge Food Bank to help many families in need.

Parent Consultations

We have been carefully considering our options for Parent Consultations meetings next half term. We are hoping to provide face to face meetings as this is the most effective way of communicating with each other. This option could be subject to change should advice from the DFE change. We will be sending out dates and times straight after half term so that you are able to book an appointment in advance.

Community Council

The Elliot Foundation have been reviewing their Governance Structure recently with a review and a decision to move away from the Local Governing Body model. The Local Governing Body will now be replaced with a Community Council. The Community Council will be a group of volunteers appointed by the Trust to offer challenging but positive and proactive support

to the Principal and Senior Leadership on behalf of the children and the community that the school serves.

Community Councils are, whilst a full and formal part of the governance structure in line with the Trust's Articles of Association, wholly advisory bodies focused on;

- The ethos and values of the school
- The ambition, appropriateness and effectiveness of the school's curriculum for its children
- The wellbeing of pupils, families and staff.

The Community Council will be made up of 9 members.

This is a voluntary position that will involve 4 meetings across the academic year with at least 2 of those meetings being directly linked to visits by members during the school day.

We are currently looking to appoint a parent member to the Community Council.

A Parent may nominate themselves, however where they have been nominated by another parent, the nominee must accept the nomination before proceeding with the election process.

If you are interested in joining our Community Council or wish to nominate another parent, please contact Mrs Gaskin in the School Office for an application form.

Natasha's Law

The 1st October 2021 saw the introduction of a new food safety law. The law is known as "Natasha's Law" and requires full ingredient and allergen labelling on all food made on premises and pre-packed for direct sale. This has an implication for us, as a school for any food being brought on to the premises.

Traditionally on children's birthdays we have been able to allow them to bring in cakes and sweets for the class. Under Natasha's Law we are no longer able to do this. We really want to continue to make children feel special on their birthday and in place of this, we would like any child whose birthday is on a school day to be able to wear their own clothes for the day. By wearing their own clothes for the day, all other children and members of staff will know that it is their birthday and will be able to wish them many happy returns for the day.

This Law will also apply to party food. From now on, children will no longer be able to bring in party food from home for a class party. Instead, the school will purchase snacks and cake for class parties and we are able to order food with the new required labelling to ensure that any child with an allergy is safe.

We appreciate that this is a different way of working but we are required to do this by law and in the interest of the safety of all children.

We thank you for your cooperation in advance.

COP26

We will be working with the Trust to develop school initiatives to help tackle environmental issues and climate change. Next week some of our Year 6 children will be on a video conferencing call with children in London and East Anglia discussing ideas and initiatives that can be undertaken by schools to help reduce climate change.

We will keep you up to date with any projects that we are doing and involve you as parents in as many as possible.

Virtual School

The Elliot Foundation Academy trust has launched its new Central Virtual School offer. The Virtual School can be accessed by any child who is required to isolate at home for any reason so that they can continue with their learning. There are also qualified teachers on hand to mark and give feedback to any work completed by your child. We recently had our first family use the Virtual School and the feedback was extremely positive. If your child is required to isolate for any reason, please contact the school office and we will send you a login and password for the site.

Operation Encompass

From September 2021, Tiverton Academy will be taking part in a joint operation involving Birmingham Children's Trust, Birmingham City Council, and West Midlands Police. This will formally be known as **Operation Encompass**

Operation Encompass has been established to help schools provide in-school support to children who have been present at, exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident.

We know that children can be significantly harmed, physically and/or emotionally, during these situations, and that it also negatively affects their learning and behaviour in class.

Therefore, as part of the Operation Encompass procedure, and to help mitigate the resulting negative impact, the school will now receive a confidential phone call or email from West Midlands Police before 9am the morning after a child or young person has been witness to, or involved in, any reported domestic abuse incident.

Here at Tiverton Academy we have a dedicated and child-focussed Safeguarding Team. They are specially trained to effectively use the information the Police share, in confidence, and enable the school to provide the right support to any child and their family.

We always endeavour to offer the best support possible to our pupils and believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

It's Good to Grow

Morrisons are currently running a 'Good to Grow' points award system where schools can earn points to purchase gardening equipment. We really need your help to get as many points as possible to replenish our equipment for next Spring.

How it Works:

- Download the MyMorrisons app
- Sign in or register to MyMorrisons and select Tiverton Academy
- Scan the app at the checkout or use it online when shopping.
- For every £10 spent, school will receive a grow token.

We really appreciate your help.

Parking

Mrs Dunn has recently sent out a letter highlighting the problems we are experiencing with dangerous parking outside of school. Parking is difficult and we understand that there are limited places available and would advise parking in a neighbouring road and walking the short distance to school. I really fear that it is only a matter of time before a child becomes injured or gets hit by a car. I have been in touch with Bournville Police Station and asked for their assistance in issuing on the spot penalty notices to any drivers who park or stop illegally outside school. Please remember that you are putting a child's life in danger if you park illegally or dangerously.

Uniform

We have recently teamed up with a company called 'Unifomd'. This will provide us with an online platform where we can advertise and sell nearly new school uniform to parents at a reduced cost. We have lots of used uniforms donated to school when children grow out of it or move on to Secondary school. We are busy populating the site during the next two weeks with an aim to go live after October Half Term. Any money generated from used uniform sales will be used to directly benefit the children e.g. disco's, ice cream van, trips to the seaside etc.

We will notify you once the site is ready but if you have any used uniform, in good condition that you would like to donate to school, we would be happy to receive it - Thank you

Holidays during Term Time

We would like to remind you that we cannot authorise any holidays taken during term time. If you need to discuss term time leave, please make an appointment with Mrs Dunn via the school office. Any absence due to holidays during term time will be unauthorised and your child will be taken off role if they have not returned within a 15 day period.

School Term Dates 2021 to 2022
(Showing Teacher Days – school closed)

Autumn Term 2021

Term Starts: Thursday 2nd September 2021

Half Term: Monday 25th October 2021 to Friday 29th October 2021

Term Ends: Friday 17th December 2021

TEACHER DAY: Thursday 2nd September 2021

TEACHER DAY: Friday 3rd September 2021

Spring Term 2022

Term Starts: Tuesday 4th January 2022

Half Term: Monday 21st February 2022 to Friday 25th February 2022

Term Ends: Friday 8th April 2022

TEACHER DAY: Tuesday 4th January 2022

Summer Term 2022

Term Starts: Monday 25th April 2022

Half Term: Monday 30th May 2022 to Friday 3rd June 2022

Term Ends: Friday 22nd July 2022

TEACHER DAY: Monday 25th April 2022

TEACHER DAY: Friday 22nd July 2022