

Ursula Taylor Church of England School



Website- www.ursulataylorschool.co.uk

**PLEASE NOTE - We have a
new email address for the
school office**

Email -
office@ursulataylor.bedssch.co.uk

Newsletter 22nd January 2016



Diary dates—

Please note the following dates:

26th Jan - PTFA Meeting 7pm Horse and Groom

29th Jan - Monthly Awards—2:45pm

3rd Feb - Year 3 St Alban's Abbey Trip

4th Feb - Bread making Day

4th Feb pm - Year 4 Captain Safety Trip

9th Feb - Year 4 Wider Opportunities Day - Samba at Kings' Arms Church

9th Feb - Shrove Tuesday

12th Feb - Year 1 - 4 Maths Puzzle Day (Info attached)

12th Feb - BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM

22nd Feb - BACK TO SCHOOL

8th March 3.45PM - 6PM PARENT CONSULTATION

9th March 1:30pm - 4pm PARENT CONSULTATION

10th March 3.45pm - 6pm PARENT CONSULTATION

10th March - Choir singing festival 1pm (info to follow)

18th March - Whole School Eco Day - TBC

w/b 21st March RE Week - Holy Week at Ursula Taylor (Info to follow)

24th March - BREAK UP FOR EASTER

11th April - TRAINING DAY - NO CHILDREN, STAFF ONLY

12th April - Children return to school



School Dinner Prices

(For Year 3 and 4 only) for the first 1/2 of the Spring Term

29 Days @ £2.15 = £62.35

Daily £2.15

Weekly £10.75

Fridays (x6) £12.90

Children in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 have their meals provided free of charge through the Government 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' Scheme.

Children who fulfil the criteria for Free School Meals are eligible for 'Pupil Premium Funding' This is additional funding which is used to support your child's learning and can remove any financial barriers that prevent children having opportunities.

No smoking on school grounds please!



No dogs on school grounds please!



School Dinners

Following a number of issues with our school dinners, which we contract out to caterlink through the Local Authority, Miss Daley and I have had a meeting with Senior Managers from Caterlink.

At the meeting we discussed a variety of concerns both raised by staff and parents. These included some sub-standards meals, inadequate quantities prepared; resulting in the older children sometimes missing out on elements of the meal. (e.g. Christmas Dinner when the gravy and sausages ran out)

We have also passed on all comments / complaints that we have received from parents. The managers have agreed that the situation was unacceptable and have taken immediate steps to remedy the problem. The Kitchen Manager has been removed and we are currently being supported by Katrina (our old manager) until a replacement has been employed.

On appointment of a new manager, Miss Daley and I will be meeting with them to ensure that our expectations are clear and to rebuild the good relationships we have had with Caterlink in the past.

We have been assured that the standards of food and quantity issue has been resolved. The managers are also committed to supporting our school and have organised a whole school bread baking day for us and also are planning taster sessions for parents to attend to see the standard of lunches on offer.

We hope that you feel we have addressed your concerns and are working to improve the lunchtime experiences of all our children. If you have any other concerns, please email us and we will pass them on directly to Caterlink.

Mrs Morrall

Holiday Absence / Attendance Policy (Attendance Policy is on our school website)

We have still been receiving requests for holiday absence. All requests will be declined unless they are deemed exceptional. Requests for holiday absence are rarely exceptional. I have been taking advice from the Educational Welfare Officer on a case by case basis and have been advised to change our attendance policy.

Currently we follow a period of 5 days unauthorised absence with a warning letter and if any more unauthorised absence occurs in the school year, we request a Fixed Penalty Notice from the Local Authority.

We have been advised to change this policy so that ALL unauthorised holiday absence is accompanied with a request for a fixed penalty fine. We have decided, at this time, to continue with our current policy and not make the suggested changes.

Miss Daley and Mrs Morrall are attendance managers and we have been requested by the Educational Welfare Officer to investigate any absences which result in a child's overall attendance falling below 92%. Please be advised, that if this is the case, you will be contacted by letter to advise of the low attendance figures and your child's attendance will be monitored frequently.



Primary Proposals.

I am pleased to be able to provide you with an update on the Primary Consultation.

Yesterday at the Borough Headteacher's meeting, it was announced that the Local Authority Executive have met and voted on the Two Tier conversion. **The Authority have voted to move towards Two Tier status.**

This means that the funding we require to extend our provision will be in place .

The Governing Body of UTS met on January 7th 2016 at an Extraordinary Governor's Meeting. All responses to the consultation were discussed and following consideration of all the points raised, the **Governing Body agreed to move towards Primary Conversion.**

A full report detailing all responses and comments, also including the Governing Body response to questions raised has been uploaded on the Primary Consultation section of our school website.

We have also had a variety of visits to the school site to conduct a full site survey, test electrical capacity, take soil sample etc. We have also had another visit from the construction team and the architects. Plans for the build are beginning to take shape and look very positive. I hope to be in a position fairly soon to share plans with you, detail likely start dates and explain any impact that the build may have on children's learning.

At the consultation sessions, I discussed the possibility of the Year 4 children needing to be relocated during a build. This is no longer going to need to be the case. The location of the current Year 4 mobile was discussed as a suitable location for the build, however, the proximity of the church, elevations from the front of the school site to the back of the site and the required relocation of 50+ children, has meant a rethink. Plans are now to site a block on the end of the car park, using some car park space and also the land adjoining the carpark / boundary / swimming pool. This also means that we would be able to have the car park redeveloped, something which would have not been possible if we build over the existing Year 4 block.

This options allows us to:

Enlarge the school field, retain the use of the swimming pool, relay the carpark, and not need to relocate Year 4 during the build. The site also allows for minimal impact on the rest of the school as day to day activities can continue.

A second option was suggested of building on the swimming pool site. This was discounted immediately due to the value of the pool to our children, parents and staff.

I hope this information is of interest to you, I will advise you of more when it become available. I wanted you to be made aware of this before it hits the press, which it will do fairly soon.

Mrs Morrall and the Governing Body