



Infant School Site
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Junior School Site
Conduit Street, Moorside
Oldham, OL1 4JX
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Tel: 0161 770 5790

7 September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you had an enjoyable summer, the children have certainly had lots of exciting stories to share.

First of all a huge welcome to you all. All the staff have been very busy over the holidays preparing for the new academic year, both in the classrooms and around school. It's great to be back. The children look so smart in their new school uniform and have been keen to impress their new teachers this week.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families we hope they will enjoy their time at Hodge Clough School and we look forward to working with you. For all our established parents I hope and trust you will continue to work with us so your children can grow in confidence, with a love of learning and a determination to be the best person they can be. At Hodge Clough we endeavour to ensure that all learners show respect for everybody (friends, adults, property etc) and we constantly remind learners of the values that underpin our beliefs. Please explain to your children that treating everyone with respect, being on time and in school every day, wearing the correct school uniform and working hard in school is important to you. These are also important life skills. The value you place on these will be the value your child holds.

As a school we ask that you remind your child to say please, thank you, excuse me and to call a person by their name. They need to learn be patient when adults are talking, to learn to wait, to knock on the door before entering, to stand back for adults if there is no room to pass and to hold the door and offer to help. We ask that parents and carers share our vision. We are often asked how parents/carers can support us. One of the key ways you can support your child's learning is by making sure they get enough sleep. Early bedtimes make a huge difference to children's engagement. I appreciate this can be a struggle, but establishing a routine with plenty of sleep will have a massive effect on your child's education. We are all busy people, but having established routines in place whereby children know they must do their home learning – homework, reading etc is vital to their success. Reading from real books (not electronic) is important for children to develop a love of books. Having a range of books at home and regular visits to the library also encourages this. At this time turn the television/computer off. Use the television/computer as incentives for work done - they will value it more.

CHILD PROTECTION

The Governors, Headteacher and staff at Hodge Clough Primary, through the implementation of our Child Protection Policy (copies can be obtained at school) endeavour to ensure that all child protection issues, or where there is reasonable grounds to suspect an issue, will be dealt with appropriately including reporting to the duty social services officer, who will act on the concern. We are legally bound in our duty of care to make referrals. Do let us know, if for any reason, your child is upset or distressed when he/she comes to school.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Eco-Schools
Bronze Award



INVESTORS IN PUPILS

INFANT CHILDREN

The safety of all the children is of utmost importance to us and therefore we would just like to remind you that all infant children must not be left unaccompanied in the playground in the mornings. An adult must stay with them until they enter class at 8.40 am.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY

As you are already aware we no longer line up in the playgrounds in the morning. The bell at the Juniors goes at 8.25 am and lessons start at 8.30am (prompt) the bell at the infants goes at 8.40am and lessons start at 8.45am (prompt).

PARKING

Parking across both sites is still a concern. Wherever possible we encourage you to walk to school. However if you drive please never park on the zig-zags or drop off zones – this is highly dangerous and inconsiderate. Please also refrain from blocking resident's drives. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

SWEETS AND BIRTHDAY TREATS.

Please can we request that you do not send sweets or cakes in when it is your child's birthday. You may want to consider donating a book for the class reading area for all the children to enjoy as an alternative.

SMOKING / DOGS

I would also like to remind you that you are not allowed to smoke on or in school grounds and with the exception of guide dogs, dogs are not allowed on the school premises.

PARENT MAIL/+PAY

Starting from September 2017 + Pay, the on-line system for the payment of money to school (excluding Dinner Money, Snack/Milk money), will be the only way to pay for school trips. Any new parent will be receiving a separate letter regarding instructions for activating an account. If you are one of our established parents that have not yet verified your parentmail account you must do this immediately. You will then have access to pay for trips once they have been added to the system. We are unable to accept cash payments for any trips in school. If any parents have any problems please contact the school office.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As previously discussed this is the last academic year for our current school uniform. Further details will be sent out in this term. With this in mind please consider whether you need to purchase any new uniform for this year as it will be obsolete as of July 2018.

Girls

Black/Grey trousers
Grey Skirts
White polo/buttoned shirt
School sweatshirt/cardigan

Boys

Black/Grey trousers
White polo/buttoned shirt
School sweatshirt

The correct P.E. kit must also be worn – Navy Blue shorts, royal blue crew neck t-shirt, bare feet at the infants (Indoors), or Trainers (outdoors)

Please ensure that all uniform and book bags are clearly labelled with your child's name and class. Children should wear black sensible shoes. No jewellery is to be worn for health & safety reasons except a watch, if your child can tell the time. This includes earrings, although studs are acceptable.(please note that on PE days stud earrings must be removed or covered with surgical tape or plasters before children come to school). Long hair must be tied back.

ASSEMBLIES

Infant site assemblies will continue to be held on Friday morning at 9.00 am. Parents of children who have won awards will be notified by Parentmail .The Junior assemblies will be on a rota basis at 2.20pm on Friday afternoon - Years 2,3,4,5 and then Year 6.

FOOD IN SCHOOL

For children who have a packed lunch please ensure it contains a healthy balance with no fizzy drinks, crisps or chocolate. Please refer to www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/school-packed-lunch-inspiration for ideas for healthy packed lunches.

MOBILE/INTERNET SAFETY

As your children become more and more reliant on the internet for both school working and entertainment we must all, as a community, be more aware of the need to monitor the sites your child visits. In school, through classroom activities and discussion, we highlight positive uses of technology, but also ways in which we can stay safe through responsible use of the internet, our mobile phones and social media (eg Whats App & Facebook etc). At home you can ensure the security systems on your computer, tablet, mobile are up to date. Also please talk to you child about the dangers of accessing information sites or giving e-mail/Facebook/Twitter etc details to strangers.

UPDATES

Please continue to check the website: www.hodgecloughprimary.oldham.sch.uk and our Facebook account for daily updates: www.facebook.com/hodgeclough/

ADDRESSES / TELEPHONES

Please remember to inform school if you have changed your address and/or phone number (including mobiles). It is important to inform school if there are any changes to your child's medical history.

LATENESS AND ABSENCE

For all children in primary school lateness and absences have a detrimental effect on their education. We ask that you adhere to the times in the letter and make sure your child is on time for the beginning of school. Further to this if your child is going to be absent can we ask you inform us as soon as possible.

May I remind everyone that at Hodge Clough Primary we have an open door policy and an appointment is not needed if you have any concerns/queries please feel free to contact the school or pop in.

Finally thank you for your continued support and we look forward to another successful year for your child, for you and for our whole community.

Yours faithfully

N Cavanagh

N Cavanagh -Headteacher