

Milton St. John's CE Primary School

Newsletter

Wednesday 24 January 2024

Remember to subscribe to the newsletter on our website to receive an electronic copy.

NURSERY APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 24

If your child will be 3 or 4 years old between 1 September and 31 August and you would like them to attend our Nursery, please contact the office for an application form or if you would like further information. The deadline for applications is Monday 5 February 2024.

For information, since September 2012, each child is entitled to 15 hours free early years education per week from the term following their third birthday. At Milton St John's, this 15-hour provision runs from 8.45am – 11.45am Monday – Friday, term time only. From September 2017, parents who work a minimum of 16 hours per week may be entitled to an extra 15 hours of free early years education per week. This is on production of an eligibility code. This code and NI number must be brought to the school office for us to check through an online portal. This must be done before the start of the term in which the parents start to claim the extra 15 hours. Eligibility then must be confirmed on a termly basis by the parent. Should eligibility change there will be a grace period in which the parent will still be able to claim the extra 15 hours of childcare.

We are very fortunate that Castletop Nursery and Skools Out offer wrap around care for parents should they require it.

PTA NEWS

Next meeting

The next PTA meeting will be Thursday 25 January at 8.15pm on zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend! Please email PTA@milton-st-johns.tameside.sch.uk for the link for the meeting.

Valentine's Disco date reminders

Reception/Y1/Y2 disco will be on Wednesday 7 February (end of school day until 4.15pm).

Year 3/4/5/6 disco will be on Thursday 8 February (end of school day until 4.15pm).

The children are able to bring a change of clothes on the day to change into for the disco.

Please be aware that there will be no clubs on these two days to accommodate the discos.



WORLD BOOK DAY – 7 MARCH

World Book Day this year is on 7 March. As it has been quite a while since we have last done this, we have decided that the children can come into school dressed as a character in a book on this day. We would like to emphasize that we will be encouraging the children to try and be creative with the clothes and resources they already have at home, rather than go out and buy a ready-made costume. We are very aware that things cost a lot of money and we do not want to add any further pressure to parents.

The following websites (from last year) have some ideas that may help:

<https://www.madeformums.com/toddler-and-preschool/last-minute-easy-world-book-day-costumes/>

<https://www.netmums.com/world-book-day/top-world-book-day-costume-ideas/8-the-very-hungry-caterpillar-costume>

CLASS ASSEMBLY DATES

Parents are welcome to attend the following assembly dates for the class assemblies. We anticipate they will last approximately 20 – 30 minutes. Year 6 will be performing in another show later on in the year rather than a class assembly. We will inform you of dates nearer the time. All assemblies will start at 9.05am.

Year 4	7.2.24
Year 3	20.3.24
Year 2	26.6.24
Year 1	8.5.24
Reception	3.7.24

SPORTS AMBASSADOR CHALLENGE FOR JANUARY

Our Sports Ambassadors are challenging everyone to see how many miles you can walk in January!

January is a perfect time to get out and be active and enjoy our beautiful surroundings with your family!

To log your miles with school send a photo on class dojo and let us know how many miles you've walked!

The challenge starts on 1st of January and ends on the 31st!



HELPING HANDS DROP INS

Helping hands drop in's provide support for the rising cost of living, including advice on money management, benefit support and household bills.

The Welfare Rights Officer can check if families are receiving the right benefits or if they are entitled to more financial support, and also help with the following;

- Universal Credit applications
- Pension Credit
- energy efficiency and support with bills
- health and wellbeing
- housing support
- support into employment

Mindy Gharda is the Welfare Rights Support Officer and will be available within the Family Hubs on the following dates and times:

- 26/1/24 Friday 10-12pm South – Hyde Flowery fields
- 30/1/24 Tues 1-3pm North - St Peters, Ashton
- 31/1/24 Wed 10-12pm – West - Greenside Lane, Droylsden

For further information, please contact your Local Family hub or Sarah Heywood, Team Manager for Family Hubs.

DIARY DATES

Wed 7 Feb 2024	PTA Valentine's Disco Rec/Yr 1/Yr 2
Thurs 8 Feb 2024	PTA Valentine's Disco Yr 3/Yr 4/Yr 5/Yr 6
Thurs 7 March 2024	World Book Day
Thurs 28 March 2024	Yr 5 trip to Lowry Theatre and Imperial War Museum
Fri 14 June – Mon 17 June 2024	Yr 6 Kingswood Residential trip
Fri 19 July 2024	Yr 6 Leavers' Party

Children are using smart devices from a much younger age than ever before. It's why it's essential we talk to our children about how to use them safely. There are so many positive benefits to the new technology at our disposal these days - however there are plenty of downsides too. As a parent, it's important you understand these risks and how you can take steps to protect your family against them.

1 PUT YOURSELF IN CONTROL

Make use of the parental control settings available to you. With most devices, you're able to change the settings to control the content your child has access to. This isn't difficult to do, as you'll often find guidance in the instructions that come with the device. By setting a private pin code on certain devices, you can make sure your child can only access it when you allow it.



2



PROTECTING ANDROID DEVICES

You can set up restricted users on Android tablets through a Google account. Open the settings menu (look for a cog icon) and select the 'Users' option. Here you can add a new restricted user. After setting up a password and username, select which applications you want to restrict access to. On an Android smartphone it's similar, but first select 'Parental Controls' in the play store.

3 PROTECTING APPLE DEVICES

For Apple devices, you can simply visit the preferences/settings menu and within 'General' there is an option for 'Restrictions'. Here you can turn off any applications or features on your child's device that you do not want them to have access to.



3



4

THINK ABOUT ALL YOUR SMART DEVICES

As well as tablets and smartphones, you should think about any device in your home connected to the Internet: a games console, a media hub, or a personal computer. In each case you can usually find parental controls in the settings. Think carefully about how much access you want to allow your child, especially when it comes to accessing the Internet.



5



MAKE SEARCHING MUCH SAFER

Most search engines, such as Google, Bing or Yahoo, have a 'safe search' setting. You should activate this. Otherwise, it's extremely easy for a seemingly harmless search on the Internet to return unexpected and inappropriate results. Depending on the browser you're using, go to the settings and search for 'safe search'. Make sure you save the change so it defaults each time you open the browser. This will seriously reduce the chances of your child being exposed to something they shouldn't be.



9 Top Tips To Get Smart About children's devices

6

REGULARLY CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA SETTINGS

Before you allow your child to use social media, you should discuss the dangers with them. You should also make sure you're able to access their profile and privacy settings and check them regularly. The companies behind social media platforms often make privacy changes without making it very obvious to the user, such as Facebook's introduction of facial recognition software.



7



DON'T LET PEOPLE SEE WHERE YOU ARE

Location software sounds useful for seeing where your child is, but it also provides the opportunity for others to locate your child too. For safety, it's a good idea to disable location software on all devices or at least turn it off when it's not required. Also, be mindful of specific apps that record running routes or locations where your child might be playing a game. Talk to your child about why these can be dangerous and how to turn the setting on and off as required.

8 WATCH OUT FOR FAKE PROFILES

Sadly, social media presents an enormous opportunity for the likes of paedophiles to set up fake profiles and interact with children. Keep a track of the people your child interacts with on social media and if you do not recognise a user as a friend, consider blocking them.



8

9 KEEP A CHECK ON SCREEN TIME

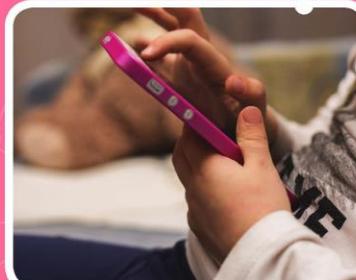
Managing how much time we spend on screens is a new challenge for us all. It's critically important when it comes to children, especially younger children who are still developing. It's not just a case of setting arbitrary time limits. Guidelines published by The Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health suggests it's more important to consider the 'context and content' of what the screen is being used for. Still, it is helpful to put limits on devices using 'Guided Access' functions, which you can find in the settings of certain devices.



9

Meet our expert

Emma Davis was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than decade. Since leaving education, she has been working in a cyber security firm delivering cyber awareness training to businesses and carrying out network testing. She is a mother of a five-year-old, she's had vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.



Manchester Football Development



At Great Academy Ashton (Sports Hall)
Broadoak Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 8RF
Starting on Friday 26th January 2024

In association with First Kick Football

School years - Reception and Year 1

6:00pm - 6:45pm

School years - Year 2 and Year 3

6:45pm - 7:30pm

School years - Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6

7:30pm - 8:30pm



Dear parents,

Places are now available to join a new **12-week football course every Friday at Great Academy Ashton, starting 26th January**, which is open to both boys and girls.

Our courses teach children correct football techniques by FA qualified coaches who have full DBS (CRB) clearance to work with children. The structure for the course is 'FUN through Football,' building confidence for total beginners and moving onto more complex sessions for experienced players.

We provide a **ball per player** for the majority of our drills ensuring children get more touches of the ball and improve quicker than conventional coaching where children are waiting around to have a turn. The sessions are held inside the fantastic sports hall, so trainers should be worn. Players are also advised to bring a still drink for the session.

The club has links to local junior teams of which players will be able to play for at the weekend. Players who show advanced ability on the course will be recommended for trials at professional academies. Players who have previously attended courses are currently playing for Blackburn Rovers, Preston North End, Manchester United, Liverpool, Blackpool, Everton, Burnley, Bolton, Oldham, Rochdale and Wigan.

The cost of the course is just over £5 per week, which is payable in two instalments. The first payment of £30 is due when booking your child on and the second payment of £40 due at the first session. Parents are encouraged to watch the sessions but are welcome to leave children, as every session is fully supervised.

****NEW TOURNAMENT FORMAT****

Every four weeks we have a tournament in order for the children to put their new-found skills into practice with medals and trophies awarded at the end of the course for various categories.

ALL PLAYERS WILL RECEIVE A TROPHY & A MEDAL at the presentation, which is held on the final week of the course. Additional trophies will also be awarded in each group from categories including; Best Attitude, Star Player, Most Improved Player, Most Promising Player and Hardest Working Player.

To book a place for your child please telephone the number below as soon as possible as a high response is expected.



George
TO BOOK PLEASE TELEPHONE
0161 302 2510 or 07514 316 534



We cannot guarantee that the course will run in consecutive weeks.
Please note we have a strict no refund policy once the course has been booked.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Young Musicians: We Want You!

Do you have any bands within your school who are looking for an opportunity to show what they can do in front of a live audience? Do you have any budding songwriters or rappers who want to be the next big thing?

On the 7th February, Tameside Music Service is hosting their annual regional heat of Battle of the Bands at Stalybridge Labour Club, and we are looking for fantastic local acts to get involved. The competition is open for all ages up to 18 so if you have anyone who may be interested, ask them to get involved and follow the instructions below. Deadline for registration is Friday January 26th.

Prizes!

The winner of the Tameside regional heat will go through to the Greater Manchester Hub Battle of the Bands Grand Final and have the opportunity to play at Manchester Academy 2 on Sunday 17th March!

The grand prize on offer for the winners at the grand final is a day of recording time at Spirit Studios in Manchester!

How To Enter:

- Scan the QR code at the bottom of this sheet:
- Fill in form fully and upload a video or audio file of you / your band.
- Once we have reviewed your entry we will be in touch with some feedback.



<https://cosmickids.com/childrens-mental-health-week-activities/>

9 ways to help children with anxiety



Resources to help children develop mental super powers

Children's Mental Health Week

5-11th February

Free resources to support your Whole School Approach

<https://www.worthit.org.uk/blog/5-practical-meaningful-activities-childrens-mental-health-week>



5 Practical and Meaningful Activities for Children's Mental Health Week

Apply for a Cost-of-Living Grant | Cash for Kids | Helping the children that need it most



For key workers and schools to apply. Please check criteria before applying

Children's Mental Health Week
(childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)



Resources to support Children's Mental Health Week

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/teach/childrens-mental-health-week/zk37bdm>



Animations and activities to support Early Years, Primary and Secondary Schools

<https://cloud.brandmaster.com/point/en/koothplc/component/default/103665>



Free mental health resources for our amazing supporters

Kooth Resource Hub

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/childrens-mental-health-week/>



Improving children's mental health

This year's theme is My Voice Matters.

Free Resources for Schools.

National Literacy Trust

Change your story

Supporting wellbeing through literacy teaching

A collection of resources and insights to support wellbeing and the recovery curriculum through literacy.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/childrens-mental-health-week/>