



Dear parents and carers,

We've already made a very positive start to the new school year; all children look happy and settled in their new classes. Reception children have made a great start too, and Nursery children are being settled in during the next few weeks.

I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to all parents who are new to Smithy Street. I hope you'll find us to be a welcoming and supportive school. My door is always open at the start and end of the day. If (after first speaking to your child's class teacher) you have some concerns you'd like to discuss, do come and find me.

In order to support parents, we have a daily breakfast club 8.00-9.00 am (free of charge) and a daily after school child-care club (£5.00 for 3.30pm -5.20 pm). I hope many (working/ studying) parents will benefit from this very good value for money service.

It was great to see so many parents, including dads, attending the parent/ teacher meetings this week. In response to parental suggestions around enabling working parents to attend more easily, we decided to change the timings last year. This has been very successful and we have therefore decided to make it a permanent change.

I was disappointed to see the continuing poor punctuality data for the school. On average around 22 children arrive late (after 9.00 am) every day. Arriving late is not helping children to develop good habits for their future working careers and important learning will be missed. Children all start the day with Guided Reading and by arriving late they are missing crucial teachers' input, which will impact on their progress. As a consequence, we have made some changes to our Attendance and punctuality policy and will be following up persistent late-comers more firmly.

This year, we will have a major focus on the progress and achievement of the 'most able' children. We will be looking at the teaching in class, and make sure it challenges and excites all children. We will also be looking at what happens outside the class rooms, for example by reviewing the suitability of homework and extra-curricular provision.

Children at Smithy Street do exceedingly well. We are achieving significantly above national and LA averages at the end of Key stage 2 for children meeting the expected level. However, our 'most able' children do not outperform National and LA results, so this is something we want to look at.

Last Friday I was invited to attend an event at London City Hall, where London Mayor Sadiq Khan presented Smithy Street with an award which recognised the great progress our pupil premium children make. We were only one of three Tower Hamlets Schools who were invited to this event; a great honour to the school!

A few reminders:

Please do not book any leave in term time before speaking to me. It is rarely authorised, and will never be authorised retrospectively.

Non-urgent medical appointments must be booked after school or as late as possible during the afternoon. This is so children do not miss out on their education. Any urgent appointments should be discussed with me, so I can decide if it meets the criteria for authorised leave or not. Evidence of the emergency could be asked for at this point. Siblings can never be picked up at the same time as the child who has the appointment. Other arrangements must be made by the parents. If no alternatives can be found, the parent can request to leave the sibling in the afterschool child-care club at a cost of £5,00. This is subject to availability and may not be possible due to Health and Safety regulations.

Late pick-ups: we have a number of parents who regularly pick their children up late after school. Please note that we record all such events in our 'Late pick-up' log. If there is an ongoing and regular occurrence, we may need to place your child in the after school child-care club at a compulsory cost of £5,00.

Dropping off and picking up relatives from the airport, even when this is a parent who has been away for a long time, is not a recognised reason for authorised absence and will therefore not be allowed.

Remember accidents in the playground can happen from time to time. Children are always well supervised and we have a very significant number of trained 1st aiders on site. However, children need to learn to take acceptable risks and this is an important developmental skill to learn, both physically and mentally. Whilst we will always do everything we possibly can to keep all children safe, we know that children can get hurt from time to time. Having children of my own, I know this can be very upsetting for parents, so I will always be available to discuss concerns you have and listen to your suggestions.

For Health and Safety reasons, the route between Nadia's reception class and the school office operates on a one-way system. Please do not come back through the door when you leave the school after dropping your children off, unless you need to speak to Khaleda or someone in the office.

I hope you will all enjoy the Autumn half term when it arrives and hope you will join me in wishing Year 6 a fantastic time in Gorse field next week.

Warmest regards,

Edith



IMPORTANT NOTICE

We will not be taking any old £1 coins, after the
9th October.

Thank you for your cooperation

Supporting learning at home

To allow parents to see the methods of calculating we teach in each year group at Smithy Street, we have published our calculations policy on the school website. The policy shows examples and diagrams of how we teach addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to allow parents to support their children using the same methods. The policy can be found under the Curriculum tab in the Mathematics page at www.smithystreet.org.uk

The website also contains examples of the handwriting font we teach at Smithy Street. Again parents can familiarise themselves with the letter formation and letter joins we teach via the website, using the English and Literacy page under the Curriculum tab.

Black History Month

Parents	Wed 4 th Oct	Somali Tea Ceremony at 3.30
EYFS		African/Caribbean storytelling - Jonathan
Y1		African/Caribbean storytelling- Jonathan
Y2		African/Caribbean storytelling- Jonathan
Y3		Cooking/collage/drawing – Somali parents/Kem/Annie
Y4		Cooking/collage/drawing – Somali parents/Kem/Annie
Y5		Cooking/collage/drawing – Somali parents/Kem/Annie
Y6		Cooking/collage/drawing – Somali parents/Kem/Annie

Parents Tuesday 31st Oct
Choir perform an African song in the playground at 3.30
Y1 & Y2 – Jambo song – Swahili song

School Uniform



Red jumper with school logo or plain red jumper

Red T-Shirt with school logo or plain red T-Shirt

Grey Trousers/Skirts/Shorts

Red Gingham dress for girls

Black shoes/Black trainers

PE

White T-Shirts

Black shorts

Reminder

Please be aware any medication can only be administered to the child once a medical form has been completed and signed by parent or carer. We cannot accept authorisation through email or over the phone. Please speak to Shelema.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Autumn Term

Starts: 06/09/2017

Half term

23/10/2017-27/10/2017

Finishes: 20/12/2017

Spring Term

Starts: 03/01/2018

Half term

12/02/2018-16/02/2018

Finishes: 29/03/2018

Summer Term

Starts: 16/04/2018

Half term

28/05/2018-01/06/2018

Finishes: 20/07/2018

5 INSET Days- INSET Days are for staff training. The school is closed for children.

Monday 4th September 2017

Tuesday 5th September 2017

Thursday 5th October 2017 P.M ONLY

Thursday 15th March 2018 P.M ONLY

Monday 23rd July 2018

Tuesday 24th July 2018

Public Holiday

May Day 7th May 2018

Occasional Holiday

Eid-Al-Fitr– Likely to be on the 15h June 2018