



ALDERMAN COGAN'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 2017

No 2. February 17th

[www.aldermancogan.co.uk](http://www.aldermancogan.co.uk)

## IMPORTANT MEETING

We sent out a letter on 12th December to let members of our school community know that the school governors are exploring conversion to academy status, with the proposal of joining the Ebor Academy Trust.

As part of the process of conversion to academy status we are consulting with parents, staff and the community to inform them of the plans and to receive comments and questions; everyone can have a voice and a chance to contribute to the consultation process. We are holding a meeting for parents at Alderman Cogan's on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 6.00pm.** Please come along with any questions you would like answering.



## Sports News

We are pleased to tell you that our Year 6 boys' football team won all of their games in an after-school competition at Goals Soccer Centre on 10th January and are through to the finals! Well done!



## Calendars

We still have a few school calendars for sale in the school office priced £1.20.

## Free School Sweatshirt

Some of our school's funding is based on the number of children enrolled here who are in receipt of free school meals. Therefore we would like to encourage anyone eligible to apply for free school meals, even if their child may not want to have a school meal. The school will offer a **FREE** sweatshirt to children on their **FIRST** application for free school meals. (*This offer is not available for children who have already received free school meals in the past.*) **Please bring proof that your child has been accepted for free school meals to the school office to take advantage of this offer.** Free school meal application forms are available from the school office.



## IMPORTANT Safety Message

May we remind you that only parents and children who have a disability can come onto the school car park in a vehicle. The car park is restricted to staff use only at a speed limit of 10mph. If you need to bring your child to school or nursery by car please do not drive into Whitworth Street as the traffic in that area is causing a real danger to our pupils. We would ask that you either park in the Lorenzo Way car park and enter the site by the rear gate or park a little further away, where it is less hazardous, and walk the remaining distance.



## Breakfast Club

Just to remind you that a daily breakfast club is held in the dining hall from 8.00am to 8.45am with the last breakfast served at 8.30am. Breakfast consists of cereal, toast & jam or marmalade and milk. After eating breakfast children are provided with different play activities and are then escorted to their classes at 8.45am ready for school starting at 8.50am. Breakfast club costs £1.00 a day, payable on arrival, or is free to children in receipt of benefit-related free school meals.



## Half-Term Break

The school will be closing for the half-term break on Friday 17th February at 3.00pm and will re-open on Monday 27th February at 8.50am.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jeanette Sutherland  
Headteacher

## RESPONSE TO PARENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to all those who took the time to fill out our questionnaire last term. The response was overwhelmingly positive but there were two areas of concern that were highlighted by several parents.

### 1. School meal choices provision

Some parents of the older children were concerned about the food choice available to those who are on the last sitting. Children in years 4 to 6 do take it in turns to go last and choice is sometimes reduced. Mrs Devaney and I are often in the dining hall and we have agreed that there must always be a choice of two dishes, even at the end of service. The cook works hard to meet needs but she has to predict what options are likely to be most popular and cook accordingly. If children choose differently at the beginning of service from what was predicted, then one of the choices can be used up before the last child is catered for. The cook is on a very tight budget and so needs to avoid waste by 'over provision'.

We are continually working with the hard-working catering team to find improvements to the system and I am happy for children to inform me of any concerns they have, which I then pass on.

### 2. School visits

Parents have noticed that there has been a reduction in the number of school visits that children are going on. Unfortunately our school budget was significantly reduced in real terms this year and we have been unable to subsidise the cost of visits as we used to. There are many 'hidden costs' when arranging an educational visit. For example a double decker bus into Hull for 60 children is £150+, so to visit 'free' provision, such as the art gallery/museums, it will cost £2.50 a child. To go further afield a coach with seat belts for a class of children can cost upwards of £500 e.g. our coach to Yorkshire Wildlife Park in Doncaster cost us £565 last year.

We ask for parental contributions for visits but have been told by many of you that you are also under financial pressure and cannot afford to find the extra funds needed. I am happy to receive any suggestions because I share the belief that educational visits are an enriching and stimulating experience which helps children's love of learning and creativity. One idea was to have a weekly 50p contribution for each child which would provide £19 for the year. Our aim is to have one visit per term for every child in Year 1 and above. Please let me know your views.