



The John Locke Academy Newsletter

**John Locke
Academy
16.09.16**

A big welcome to all of our John Locke Academy families. The term has started well with children and staff settling in quickly. Our new reception children have made a great start and are getting used to being in 'big' school very quickly. We look forward to getting to know our new families and continuing to work with our returning families.

John Locke Academy Values

Last year we consulted with parents and staff on the core values that they felt we should be teaching and reinforcing at school. We used part of our staff training day last week to plan how we would teach and develop these values within our curriculum.

Our value this half term is **Kindness**. We will be working with our children to explore what KINDNESS means, how we can be kind and what to do if it is difficult to be kind. Please talk to your children about how they have been kind. Have they used kind hands, kind mouths and do they have a kind heart?

We have a 'Values Book.' During the week I have asked teachers to write down in the book children who have shown off the school values, particularly kindness this half term. During our celebration assembly on Friday these names will be read out as a celebration of their acts of kindness.

If you notice other children being particularly kind out of school, please do let us know.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We would like to host a coffee morning on September 30th. All parents are welcome to come and have a cup of coffee and a slice of cake. We will take donations on the day which will be sent to Macmillan Cancer Support. Any donations of cakes would also be welcome and can be brought in on the morning. The coffee morning will run from 9.30am to 11.30am and will be held in our ICT room. Please come up to the main entrance.

New staff members

We welcome a number of new staff to the team this year. These include teachers, support staff and lunchtime supervisors. I am sure that over the year you will get to know them. Their photographs will be on display in the main entrance so that you can see exactly who is in the building.

All members of staff have an identity badge. If you are unsure why an adult is in the building, please do ask.

Curriculum in year 1 and 2

We have introduced a new maths programme into years 1 and 2 called Inspire Maths. The programme is based on the Singapore maths programme that has proved very successful for developing children's mathematical understanding. It has been revised so that it is directly linked to the National Curriculum.

In order to ensure that our PE teaching is of the highest standard and as part of our belief in the importance of healthy lifestyles, we are working with Elms Sports in School. Five of their coaches will be teaching our year 1 and year 2 children. This term there is an emphasis on a range of ball skills and skills that can be adopted in many different sports. Alongside this, we have invested in Jigsaw, a programme that will help teachers support pupil wellbeing. Miss Abiola will be teaching music to all classes and will teach year 1 and 2 some beginner Spanish.

Meet the teacher and curriculum workshops

On Tuesday 27th we will be holding short 'meet the teacher' meetings followed by a range of curriculum workshops. We trialled the workshop last year and parents found it very helpful.

You will be able to meet your year group teachers from 5pm. They will introduce themselves and talk through the curriculum for the term. You will be able to ask them general questions about the school year. This is not the platform for specific questions related to your child.. The workshops after will be 20 minutes each. They

Opening Minds to Success, Opening Hearts to Succeed



The John Locke Academy Newsletter

John Locke
Academy
16.09.16

will give a taster of how we will be teaching different areas of the curriculum across the school. You will be able to pick the workshops relevant to your child.

Parking, drop off and pick up

We understand our parking situation is difficult and we have tried over the last 2 years to seek alternative arrangements with the local authority. However, until our children are mostly local and can walk, we will need to work together to ensure that everyone is safe in the car park and the surrounding roads. Please bear the following in mind:

- Only **nursery parents** will be able to use the car park from September 23rd.
- The **speed limit** on site is **5mph**
- Reception parents may use the drop off next week if they feel their children are ready.
- Children should get out of the car on the pavement side of the car.
- Children and adults should use the path at all times
- **Drop off will be busy, particularly in the first couple of weeks. Please be patient.**
- Please try to have children ready to leave the car so that traffic is not held up behind.
- Please **do not overtake** on the roundabout. Children are unpredictable!
- Children should be in class by 9.10am. The slope gate will lock at 9.15am.
- If you wish to walk down with your child you are always welcome and should park outside of the school car park and walk in.
- For pick up. All parents will need to park off site and collect from the classroom.
- Adults are expected to behave in the same way we expect children to. Aggression of any sort will not be tolerated.

Ordering Lunches/Pack lunches

We have very pleased with the quality of the new caterer's lunches for children. Please ensure that you log on and choose your child's menu for the week, even if you want them to have a jacket potato it would be helpful for you to log and book this so the caterers have the right amount of meals.

If you send a packed lunch in, please ensure that there are no fizzy drinks, sweets, chocolate, biscuits or crisps. This is part of our commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Scooters and Bikes

We encourage and welcome children riding bikes and scooters to school. Please do not allow children to ride bikes or scooters down the slope. They should be parked in the bike sheds at the front of the school.

School uniform

Please label all school uniform, bags, umbrellas etc so that we can help get things back to you if they are mislaid. A lost property box will be set up in each year group. Please encourage your children to look in there regularly.

The children have settled into their first full week back and coped very well with unusually hot weather. We are all looking forward to an exciting term. We value our relationship with parents and look forward to hearing how you feel your children are settling in, learning and developing over the year. If you have any concerns or question, please do get in touch with your class teacher or with the main office.

The John Locke Team

Opening Minds to Success, Opening Hearts to Succeed