



# *FINSTALL FIRST SCHOOL*



**Carnforth Road  
BROMSGROVE  
Worcestershire  
B60 2HS**

**Tel: 01527 872938**

**Fax: 01527 836448**

**E-mail [office@finstallfirst.co.uk](mailto:office@finstallfirst.co.uk)**

**Web Site [www.finstallfirst.co.uk](http://www.finstallfirst.co.uk)**

**HEADTEACHER: Mr Stuart Evans**

*We care, we share, we learn and achieve*

5<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents,

## **Welcome Back**

I write to welcome you back to a new academic year at Finstall First School after what I hope was an enjoyable Summer break. I would also like to give a particularly warm welcome to all the children who are starting their first term at our School.

## **Parents' Information Evenings for Years 1 - 4**

I would like to invite you to attend a Parents' Information Evening led by your child's class teacher(s). At this meeting, we intend to provide you with a full picture of the education that your child(ren) will be receiving during this academic year. We will demonstrate various aspects of the curriculum and also talk to you about how best you can support your children at home. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions that you might have.

Each year group will be holding their evening on a different night. We expect the meeting to last for approximately 45 minutes to one hour.

In most cases, we expect that parents will be provided with enough information and will have had the opportunity to meet their child's class teacher at this meeting. However, class teachers are always happy to arrange to meet with you after school should you have any further questions or concerns. The meetings are for parents only and children **cannot** attend on these evenings.

The schedule for the Information Evenings is as follows:

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept - Year 3 Information Evening\*

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Sept – Year 2 Information Evening

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Sept – Year 1 Information Evening

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept – Year 4 Information Evening\*

\* (Please note that the dates for Years 3 and 4 have been swapped from those provided on the list of Diary Dates at the end of last term).

**All meetings will begin at 6.00pm.**

Copies of each year's presentations will be placed on the School Website if you are unable to attend but we do hope that you are able to come and we look forward to seeing you.

**PTO**



## **Collecting Pupils at the end of the School Day**

For the last few years, at the end of the School day, we have allowed older children to go to the classes of their younger siblings to be handed over to their parents. This was done with the intention of making life easier for parents who had to collect children from more than one class.

However, this has led to a number of issues, which have made us question whether we can effectively safeguard the children using such a system. For example, at times, our Reception teachers were handing over up to 20 additional children on top of their own 30. In addition, they would also receive a large number of communications related to changes about who was picking up different children. This often left them confused about who children had to be handed over to, which made them and, therefore, the School and, more importantly, **the children** in a vulnerable position.

As a result, with immediate effect, we have decided that all children will be dismissed from their own classrooms by their own class teachers. Parents with more than one child are asked to collect each child from wherever their class is dismissed, starting with the youngest children first. Staff will wait with the older children until parents arrive. Should parents and staff need to have a conversation about a particular matter, they should arrange to return a few minutes later, once the parent has collected all of their children. The same rule will apply to child-minders and staff from Castle Kids. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but feel that the safety of your children is our main priority.

## **Healthy Snacks**

Please could I remind parents that children are only be allowed to bring a piece of fruit or a vegetable to School for a snack. We are aware that actual fruit or vegetables are not the only healthy snacks available to children and we do reinforce this in School.

However, the reason for us only allowing fruit or vegetables is that staff can effectively manage and enforce such a rule. I would like to reassure parents that staff do try very hard to ensure that this rule is enforced consistently, whether this is done formally by asking children to hold up their snack or more informally by subtly checking the children's snacks as they lead out of the class room. It would be impossible for staff to enforce this rule if we allowed a range of alternative "healthy" snacks as they simply could not be expected to check the nutritional content of every packaged article to see if it was, in their opinion, "healthy" or not. Children in Years R, 1 and 2 are already provided with a free piece of fruit at School for a snack each day but they are welcome to bring another if you wish.

## **Nut Allergies**

I would like to bring to your attention the fact that we have a number of children in the School who have a very severe allergy to nuts. In some of these cases, if a child swallowed a nut it could send that child into anaphylactic shock, which could threaten his / her life. Even coming into contact with nuts could have serious repercussions for such children.

Thus, on behalf of these children and their families, I would like to make a polite request to parents to please try to avoid including nuts or "nut related products" in your child's packed lunches. This will greatly reduce the likelihood of the children coming into contact with nuts. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this rather sensitive matter.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Evans  
Head Teacher

