

Atwood Primary School

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Newsletter 09/08

Dear Parents/Carers

School Uniform

I am pleased to be able to report progress on the uniform negotiations with Dick Townley Sports. Over the past few months we have sourced a suitable school coat and looked at the possibility of the shop stocking our jumpers and cardigans to make it easier for parents to buy uniform.

A sample of the navy blue school coat should be with me early next week and I will bring it in the playground before and after school for people to see. It is reversible, and 100% waterproof on one side. It has a hood as well as small reflectors, which I think is essential in a coat that children will wear when walking near a road. The coat will have our logo printed on the waterproof side (it cannot be embroidered as this would compromise the waterproof characteristics) which will be a smaller version of the Atwood Primary School logo (as on the book bags and Foundation Stage sweatshirts) to standardise the design.

The cost of the coat will be in the region of £20 (it may vary depending on size). The advantage of Dick Townley stocking our uniform is that your child can try the uniform on for size. If I am happy with the sample, then stock should be available from around 29th September. If demand is high and they run out of stock quickly, at least you will be able to try a coat on and order one, and delivery time will be quick. Please note that our Prospectus states that a school coat should be navy blue with no logo. This will be amended to say "Navy blue with logo available from Dick Townley Sports, or any other navy coat without a logo". The Atwood coat is not compulsory, but recommended!

I will confirm when they are available. Fleece will no longer be sold.

The jumpers and cardigans have been problematic in finding an alternative supplier whilst maintaining the same vibrant colour. We will have to stay with the Rowlinson make, but buying through Dick Townley will enable you to return it if something is wrong. Again, we will standardise the logo, which will be embroidered. We will continue to search for alternative makes. Similarly these will be available from Dick Townley from 29th September.

We have a small stock of existing jumpers and cardigans (24" to 36"), which will be available to buy from our office **with £1 off all prices!** Once they're gone, they're gone!

Whilst on the subject of uniform, please remember that we have a strict policy on earrings, which I am repeating here as this term a number of children are wearing diamond effect or decorated earrings:



We prefer pupils not to wear earrings. If they are worn, there must be a maximum of one small plain gold or silver ear stud per ear, in the lobe (not glass/diamond-effect/emblems, etc.) Children must remove their earrings themselves, or have them taped for PE. Hooped earrings are not allowed and no other piercings are permitted.

It is sensible for children not to wear their earrings on days when they have PE, games or swimming, especially if they are unable to remove them on their own.

Taking holiday during term time

Holiday taken during term time has an effect on children's learning. I make sure that you have all the term dates for at least the next two years, which are published on our website. Our governing body feels that parents, especially year 6 parents, should reflect on the significant impact on achievement that missing school can have.

An 'Attendance Strategy', currently in consultation, will be issued by Croydon Council later this year. It is likely to tighten up on the issue of taking holiday during term time, including the use of fines for parents that take unauthorised holiday.

In the meantime I will continue to authorise a single holiday in any one academic year for a child, where previous attendance in school has been good, and where this is the only option for the parents. I will not, however, authorise holiday for Y6 pupils as this would be inappropriate.

School Lunches

Our 'tasting session' on Thursday went well and, from talking with parents, everyone was very impressed with the quality of our meals. Y1 and Y2 have their free meal from Tuesday 16th September until Monday 22nd September, and all new Reception children have their free meal for the week of 22nd to 26th September.

It is possible for you to log into your ParentPay account and click on 'Meal Choices' at the bottom to see what your child selected each day. However, with the 'free option' you will notice that a main choice is not shown. This is simply because the free meals have to be recorded separately and is shown on the till as 'Atwood Free' rather than the actual meal choice. Once you start paying, the actual choice is shown!

Yours faithfully

Mr A Clark
Head Teacher