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Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School Newsletter



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July 2015

Fond Farewells

It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to our lovely Year 6 pupils. They are a remarkable group of young people with amazing potential and we are excited to hear about their future achievements. Our prayers and best wishes go to Matthew, Neave, Anna, Jack, Din, Ruby, Jenny, Liam, Daniel, Lewis, Kate, Charlotte, Regan, Josh, Amy, Sophie, Stephen, Eva, Jon-Paul, Keira, Dominic, Jess, Cameron, Jacob, Joe, Kyra, Ellie, Annabelle, Daniel and Luke.

As you know we are also saying goodbye to Mr Lane. We will be giving him a good "send off" in September and will give you more details in the new term.

Building Work

We have, at last, been given a start date for our new building work. Another temporary classroom will be arriving during the holidays and the foundations for the extensions will be dug from the end of September. This will be a time of disruption and frustration, no doubt, but will be worth it in the end. Your support at this time is greatly appreciated.

Childcare

The government has announced information about a new tax-free childcare scheme:

1. You'll be able to open an online account

You'll be able to open an online account, which you can pay into to cover the cost of childcare with a registered provider. This will be done through the government website, GOV.UK. Tax-Free

Childcare will be launched from early 2017.

2. For every 80p you or someone else pays in, the government will top up an extra 20p

This is equivalent of the tax most people pay - 20% - which gives the scheme its name, 'tax-free'. The government will top up the account with 20% of childcare costs up to a total of £10,000 - the equivalent of up to £2,000 support per child per year (or £4,000 for disabled children).

3. The scheme will be available for children up to the age of 12

It will also be available for children with disabilities up to the age of 17, as their childcare costs can stay high throughout their teenage years.

4. To qualify, parents will have to be in work, earning just over an average of £50 a week and not more than £150,000 per year

The scheme is designed to be flexible for parents if, for example, they want to get back to work after the birth of a child or work part-time.

5. Any eligible working family can use the Tax-Free Childcare scheme - it doesn't rely on employers offering it

Tax-Free Childcare doesn't rely on employers offering the scheme, unlike the current scheme Employer-Supported Childcare. Any working family can use Tax-Free Childcare, provided they meet the eligibility requirements.

6. The scheme will also be available for parents who are self-employed

Self-employed parents will be able to get support with childcare costs in Tax-Free Childcare, unlike the current scheme (Employer-Supported Childcare) which is not available to self-employed parents. To support newly self-employed parents, the government is introducing a 'start-up' period. During this, self-employed parents won't have to earn the minimum income level.

The scheme will also be available to parents on paid sick leave and paid and unpaid statutory maternity, paternity and adoption leave.

7. If you currently receive Employer-Supported Childcare then you can continue to do so

You do not have to switch to Tax-Free Childcare if you do not wish to. Employer-Supported Childcare will continue to run. Parents won't be able to register for Employer-Supported Childcare after Tax-Free Childcare is introduced, but those already registered by this date will be able to continue using it for as long as their employer offers it. However, Tax-Free Childcare will be open to more than twice as many parents as Employer-Supported Childcare.

Employers' workplace nurseries won't be affected by the introduction of Tax-Free Childcare.

8. Parents and others can pay money into their childcare account as and when they like

This gives you the flexibility to pay in more in some months, and less at other times. This means you can build up a balance in your account to use at times when you need more childcare than usual, for example, over the summer holidays.

It's also not just the parents who can pay into the account - if grandparents, other family members or employers want to pay in, then they can.

9. The process will be as simple as possible for parents

The process will be light-touch and as easy as possible for you. For example, parents won't have to report any change of circumstances to HMRC; there will be a single log-in service where parents can view accounts for all of their children at once.

10. You'll be able to withdraw money from the account if you want to

If your circumstances change or you no longer want to pay into the account, then you'll be able to withdraw the money you have built up. If you do, the government will withdraw its corresponding contribution.

More information will become available ahead of the scheme being introduced so parents making childcare decisions are able to consider all their options.

Reminders

The start of a new term is a good opportunity to remind you of a few important details:

- When sending money into school it MUST be in an envelope clearly marked with the child's name and the purpose of the payment. **Dinner money** is due on a Monday, payable a week in advance. This too should be in an envelope bearing the child's name.
- School uniform, including suitable footwear and hair styles, should be worn at all times. Jewellery, including earrings, is NOT permitted.
- The new term begins for children on Wednesday 2nd September.

And Finally....

Prayer for Holidays

God our protector, guide us during our holidays. Bless us as we spend time with our families and friends and keep us all safe so that we return to school refreshed, uplifted and ready to begin a new year. We make this prayer through the spirit. Amen.

Barbara Reilly-O'Donnell