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Co-op Academy
Hillside

October Newsletter

Friday 20th October, 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe that the first half-term has passed us by! Thank you for the welcome you have all given me, and for your support in moving the school forward.

I have included a few updates and reminders for next half-term below.

Autumn Disco

We will be holding our 'Monster Mash' Disco after school on Monday 30th October.

Foundation Stage

(If your child isn't in school on this day they are welcome to come along as long as you are happy to stay with them)

2:30pm – 3:10pm
*This includes a drink and a bag of sweets.

Years 1, 2 & 3
3:50pm – 4:50pm

Year 4, 5 & 6
5:00pm – 6:00pm

Tickets are £2.50 each and available from the school office or your child's teacher. Refreshments, Glitter Tattoos and light up toys will be available to purchase on the day.

Harvest Lantern Competition

Given we will be holding an Autumn Disco with a Monster Mash theme, we thought it might be nice to hold a lantern carving competition.

You can carve turnips, potatoes or pumpkins, with a small prize for every entry, and a bigger prize available for first, second and third place - EYFS/KS1 and KS2 will be judged separately (shared entries judged in the category of the oldest child). We will be judging the carving of the lanterns with the stand out designs most likely to win.

There are a few dos and don'ts:

Do

- Create a striking design
- Add battery operated lights if you'd like to
- Enjoy working on your design together
- Make a shared entry if you'd like to
- Supervise and support children carving

Don't

- Using anything very sharp for carving (we don't want any injuries!)
- Please don't add blood, weapons or anything horror related - we don't want to promote anything that doesn't align with our values

You can drop your lantern off in the office area from Monday to Thursday (in the first week after the holiday (30th Oct - 2nd Nov). There will be cards available for you to write your child's first name and class, to leave with your entry. We'll keep them on display for as long as possible in that week (they will deteriorate as the week goes on); we know some of you might want to display them at home, so we'll take photos each day, so you can collect your lantern at the end of the day (only if you really want it at home: we really want some to display in school).

We'll award prizes in celebration that week. There will be a small prize for every entry, with a certificate for the three winners from EYFS/KS1 and KS2.

This is entirely optional, and is intended as a bit of shared fun for families at home.

Attendance Policy

We've reviewed and updated our Attendance Policy. We want it to be clear, consistent and fair - we hope you feel that we've got it right. You can see our attendance poster with some key messages here. You can read the full policy here.

I've spoken to some parents who feel I've been a little inflexible when dealing with leave requests, or the attendance prizes have been a bit bigger than they might expect. I have noted feedback, and will take further feedback in my upcoming coffee mornings (see below)

I want to take the opportunity to make clear, my job is to ensure that your children get the very best education possible; we're working incredibly hard to raise standards at the Academy, from new phonics and english curricula, to full assessment and review of provision for all learners with SEND, to brokered support from other schools, the English hub, and the maths hub. We're spending tens of thousands of pounds this academic year, to make the difference your children deserve, but they won't get the full benefit of this investment if they're not at school, and we can't raise attainment and aspiration in fits-and-starts. We need to take attendance seriously, and we need your help. Education is the greatest gift we can give our children.

We're Recruiting

We've decided to make our own After School Club a permanent feature - we're calling it Windmill Club.

We need a Senior Playleader and a Playleader. You can see the advert here - tell your friends!

A few reminders

Drop off and collection:

Year group	Drop off	Collection
Nursery (F1)	Nursery door – gate next to main office	Nursery door – gate next to main office
Reception (F2)	Green gate – main playground	Reception door – through green gate
Year 1	Main playground	Year 1 door – through green gate
Year 2	Main playground	Year 1 door – through green gate
Year 3	Main playground	Main playground

Year 4	Main playground	Main playground
Year 5	Main playground	Main playground
Year 6	Main playground	Main playground

Please aim to be lined up at your classroom door before the whistle sounds

Uniform

Details of the school uniform are on the school website, and can be found here. As has been the policy of Co-op Academies Trust, the previous uniform will remain current and acceptable, and will never be withdrawn, this is better for the environment and better for your pocket!

I have updated the policy with some minor amendments, following discussions at recent coffee mornings.

Coffee Mornings

All coffee mornings will take place in the Hall - meet at the main office. We'll add more dates and information sessions as the term progresses.

Date	Time	Who	Purpose
Friday 3rd November, 2023	09:00 - 09:30	Mr Lewis	Parent Voice - Attendance
Thursday 9th November, 2023	09:00 - 09:30	Richard Farrell/Shaun Leathers	Maths - Addition
Friday 17th November, 2023	09:00 - 09:30	Mr Lewis/Mrs Bergman	Parent Voice - Behaviour Policy Consultation
Thursday 23rd November, 2023	09:00	Mrs Hamer/Mr Leathers	English/Reading KS2
Friday 1st December 2023	09:00 - 09:30	Mr Lewis	Parent Voice - RSE* Consultation
Every Wednesday	9am	Mrs McLaughlin/Mrs Hamer	Pastoral Queries/Parent Voice

*We must consult periodically on our Relationships and Sex Education Policy - the draft will be published well in advance. We're not changing much, but we need to listen to your views

Yours Sincerely,

R. J. Lewis

Mr Ryan Lewis
Headteacher (Interim)