

Cantrell Primary School Newsletter 3rd February 2023



FINAL REMINDER: FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM CANTRELL. As we all deal with the cost of living crisis and the pressure on our finances, here at Cantrell, we find ourselves not immune to this on-going situation, forcing us to undergo changes within our finance management and spending patterns in school. This covers all aspects of everyday school life and is a precursor to difficult decisions we will need to make in the weeks and months to come, to balance our books. This will be the first of a number of updates. We are now looking into payments overdue on the balances for **After School Club, Breakfast Club and Dinner Money**. As we are not able to sustain the growing number of overdue balances, we now require payments to be upfront to pre-pay for any balances that may occur for the week. This applies to After School Club, Breakfast Club and Dinner Money. If we don't receive payment for the week in advance, we are unable to offer out these services to your children. Dinner monies must be paid into your child's Squid account in advance. If, for any reason you don't have access to this, please come and get a registration letter from reception. If online payments are an issue for you, we will need the dinner money in cash handed into reception by Friday evening for the week ahead. For any After School Club or Breakfast Club payment, money will be due before the start of the week to pay in advance for the week ahead. We can only accept CASH for these clubs. Please ensure payment is made or your child will not have a space in these clubs for that week. You should be aware of any current arrears you may owe to us; we are asking these are paid by **Friday 3rd February**. If you have any questions about balances owed, please get in contact with us as soon as possible.

Dinner Money. If these balances are not cleared by **Friday 3rd February**, we cannot supply hot meals to your child, they will only be offered a basic sandwich.

Breakfast/After School Club. Outstanding balances will need to be cleared by **Friday 3rd February**, along with payment for the week commencing 6th February. If a balance hasn't been cleared by 12pm on a Monday your child will lose their place on the list. This will be coming into effect the week commencing 6th February to give you enough time to prepare for these changes.

If you have any issues, please get in touch with the office either by telephone on 0115 9155770 or email us at admin@cantrell.nottingham.sch.uk and one of our office staff will be in contact with you. Thank you for your co-operation and to the many parents who pay on time and in advance.

ATTENDANCE. We're on the up at **94%** for the academic year so far! Still below the Ofsted expectation of 95% but great to see an increase. **295** children are In It To Win It week two. Children at school every day from 16th January to 24th March will receive a prize just in time for Easter! Class results for last week:

Class RA: 91.5%	Class RB: 93.2%	Class 1A: 96.3%	Class 1B: 94.3%	Class 2A: 96.5%	Class 2B: 97%	Class 3A: 94.8%
Class 3B: 97.3%	Class 4A: 93%	Class 4B: 94%	Class 5A: 96.3%	Class 5B: 96.1%	Class 6A: 97.2%	Class 6B: 96.7%

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME. Please don't be tempted by the adverts! A reminder that leave during term time can only be authorised in *exceptional circumstances*. All applications for a leave of absence must be made on a form available from the school office or website. Our attendance policy states:

- Only a maximum of 5 days will be authorised by the school in exceptional circumstances;
- Family holidays, cheap holidays, birthday celebrations, family events will not be authorised;
- Penalty notices will be issued, and the Local Authority may fine parents.

YEAR 5 PARENTS - SPECIAL ASSEMBLY INVITE – CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM CELEBRATION. A special assembly will take place on **Monday 27th February 2023** starting at 1:45pm. Parents and family members are invited to join us for this special event. If you could help with serving tea and coffee, then please approach the year 5 staff. This special assembly will be a great way for the children to demonstrate their learning and for parents to see all their hard work linked to the subjects they study. We're hoping this provides plenty of notice for you and we look forward to meeting you on the day.

VOUCHERS FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS. The Local Authority is funding free school meal vouchers for all eligible children again this February half term. Voucher codes will be sent to parents' email address by **Thursday 9th February**.

ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNORS. The Cantrell School Governing Body, before Easter, will be looking to elect two new Parent Governors. Please read attached information:
https://www.cantrell.nottingham.sch.uk/images/newsletters/Information_about_the_planned_appointment_of_parent_governors_to_Cantrell.pdf

COMING SOON – CANTRELL'S READING CHALLENGE. Reading remains the school's top priority. We continue to encourage parents and children to develop their love of reading and understanding of why learning to read, and developing a love of reading, is important. To support this, we are launching the 'Reading Spring Term Challenge' from **Monday 20th February 2023**. The winning class with the highest percentage of children **reading 4 times a week** at home until **Friday 24th March 2023** will be invited to bring their parents to a film afternoon on **Friday 31st March 2023**. Here is how you can help:

- Encourage and listen to your child/children read their reading book.
- Share a story with your child/children, encouraging questions and discussion about what they are reading or the illustrations.
- Here is the most important thing – sign your child's/children's reading diary (noting the book that they have read to you and include your signature) every time they read to you. It is important that children read to an adult, so reading to a brother or sister will unfortunately not be accepted. If the diary is not kept up-to-date, they will miss out on the opportunity to help their class win the Reading Challenge.

Your child/children's class teacher will keep a record of how many times they read every week and they will check the diaries every Friday. We appreciate your support and the children are very excited about getting started after the half term break.

INTERNET ACCESS AT HOME BUT CHILDREN SHARE A DEVICE TO DO THEIR HOMEWORK. We're trying to understand how many families access INTERNET at home - where the children need to share an electronic device to complete their homework. Please book an appointment to see Mr Surman on 0115 9155770 and without making any promises we want to see if we can offer any support.

BREAKFAST CLUB. We have been informed by the Charity Magic Breakfast they will no longer be providing bagels for our Breakfast Club at a reduced rate. We have been left with no option but to phase these out from the end of January.

NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE. If you have a two, three or four-year-old child, we now have FREE nursery places available. Our Early Years provision is consistently rated **Good** by Ofsted. Please ring 0115 9155770 to book a visit.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND FREE MILK. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

It's important to apply for this benefit. For detailed information please follow the link:

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/freeschoolmeal>

***** COMMUNITY NEWS *****

Light Night Friday 3 & Saturday 4 February 2023. Nottingham City Centre. From 5pm until late. FREE event. This popular after-dark festival returns for its 15th year. Many immersive and interactive light-based installations, performances and activities feature right across the city centre. You can see a full list of events on the Nottingham Light Night app: App Store: <https://apple.co/3HNGPFP> Google Play: <https://bit.ly/LNGooglePlay23> It lists all the events and installations by day and time, plus there's an interactive map to point you in the right direction.

Muddy Church in St Mary's Churchyard '*The Church on the Hill*'. 11:30am Saturday 4th February 2023. Meet on the steps under the tower. This month's theme: '*it must be love...!*' and the first Saturday of each month. FUN TRAIL to follow around the churchyard. CRAFT STATIONS and ACTIVITIES followed by HOT DOGS and a GOD-SLOT. **ALL WELCOME!** **PLEASE DRESS APPROPRIATELY** It might be a bit muddy! To BOOK your FREE PLACES contact: Zoe: zoejackson000@gmail.com.

Bulwell Forest Garden half term activities. Monday 13th Feb 11am – 2pm Grow Cook & Play: Nature Detectives. Explore woodlands, harvest and cook, get growing! £1 per child for free food and activities. The big friendly café will be open with homemade cakes and hot drinks for sale. **Friday 17th Feb** from 11am – Rainbow Stripes: campfire special. Sing along to your favourite songs around the campfire! £1 per child. Bring an extra £1 for two marshmallows and a hot chocolate. Find out more at www.bulwellforestgarden.co.uk.

Please claim what you are entitled to. If you are eligible for free school meals for your children, please claim them. This can ease financial pressures families are facing by saving parents up to £437 per year. Primary school children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals that are free for all children in Government-funded schools. Just ask to have school meals at your school office. If your circumstances have changed your children may be able to continue having free school meals after year 2. Please check your eligibility here and apply for Free School Meals at: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. Our catering service Eat Culture, Nottingham Catering provides freshly prepared hot meals for many city schools in a warm, friendly dining hall. Their meals meet school food standards for children's nutritional needs and are healthy, balanced and enjoyable.