

Newsletter



PATTISON
COLLEGE

13/09/2017

ISSUE 2

Dear Parents

You cannot be too careful when it comes to children being safe and you will see below that we have been working hard to ensure that we do our part to keep children safe whilst asking you to support our efforts.

As ever, please do not forget to contact me should you have any concerns.

E McConnell

Prep School Fence and Gate

Way back in June we ordered an extra gate and fencing for the Prep School and organised the playground to be dug up for the electricity supply to reach the gate. **Work will commence at 9am tomorrow** and not in the holiday as we had hoped, but the area will be fenced off.

We obviously cannot dig up the playground during term time and so for the time being, we will just have the extra security of an additional gate and the electricity supply will be installed during half term.

The new gate will eventually be operated with a biometric lock but it will be on freeflow at the start and end of the day to allow Early Years parents to bring their children into the Nursery. We would expect other parents to continue to drop off and collect from the gate as they currently do.

As the result of a review of our security systems, we shall no longer be enrolling parents on to the biometric system. Parents needing access to the Prep School building will need to visit or telephone the school office and Mrs Hanks will arrange access.

Parking

There have been several near misses as children try to cross the road whilst cars are not only parked on the double yellow lines but also on the pavement and even across the corner of the slip road.

I have had an anonymous letter of complaint and a phone call expressing concern and I can see why. Complaints from residents have resulted in traffic wardens issuing parking tickets on occasions and the residents have discussed the council making the whole area residents only parking.

I understand fully how difficult it is to park. Even arriving at 7.45am all the spaces in front of the senior school are taken. What is the solution? Parking on Stoke Green and Bulls Head Lane and walking to school would seem to be the only option. Children's safety is paramount and I would ask parents to allow the extra time to park safely for everyone's sake.

Another understandable complaint that we have received is about senior pupils being dropped off outside the school gate, walking round to the boot to get their bag and then going to kiss their parent goodbye whilst holding up all the traffic behind them, resulting in people arriving late at work. I am sure that with your support we can create a safer environment for everyone. Thank you.

Fire Alarm

Mr McConnell and our electrician have spent weeks in the holiday installing smoke detectors in every Senior school classroom, corridor and toilet as well as every room in 90 Binley Road, the office building, which we call Cressage, as it was called when the Pattison family lived here. Work in the Prep School was completed last year.

E-Safety

We have already sent to parents whose children were with us last year a magazine called Digital Parenting. It gives really useful advice for protecting children of all ages. We have a limited number of magazines available if any new parents would like to collect one from the office.

Mobile Phones

To comply with the every stricter safeguarding regulations, staff are not allowed to use their phones when pupils are present. There are signs in all buildings prohibiting the use of mobiles and any other device capable of recording images on the school premises including the playgrounds. This applies not only to staff but to parents, pupils and any visitors.

Senior pupils are meant to hand in their mobile phones on arriving at school so that they can be securely locked away and collected at the end of the day. They may not be used in the homework room and perhaps some of our pupils had forgotten this. Could I please ask parents to remind their offspring that this is the case. Safeguarding rules apply to everybody, I am sure you can appreciate.

Should you need to leave a message for your child you can call the office until 4.20pm and after that the Prep School payphone on 024 7665 9241.

Text & Email messages to parents

For some time now we have been using HomeContact to send text messages to parents and our management information system, (MIS), ScholarPack, to send emails. Both systems work well for sending however it is not possible for parents to reply to messages sent from either of these platforms.

This being the case we have started using a new service called "Call Parents". You may notice that text messages now come from 07860 005017 and not "Pattison College". This is because the new programme **does allow replies**. Emails will still come from Pattison College now using the address noreply@callparents.com. Although the address says "no reply", you can in fact reply to them and replies will be delivered to the school inbox. This all sounds very strange but I can assure you it does work!

DIARY DATES

	DATE	EVENT
SEPTEMBER	15	St Gregory's Buenos Aires visit school
	20	PTA Meeting
	21	Y7 & 11 Parents Evening 5pm
	23	Barbara Sharples Award Manchester - Students
	29	Macmillan Breakfast/Coffee Morning
OCTOBER	3	Y7, 8 & 9 Coventry Heritage Walk
	5	Y10 & 11 Coventry Heritage Walk
	5	Years 10 Parents' Evening
	5	PTA AGM 7.30pm
	8	Allstarz Dance Festival, Students & Troupe
	10	Harvest Assembly
	11	School photos - individual and family groups
	15	Rushton Dance Festival, Students & Troupe
	17	Prize Giving 6pm Prep School, 7.30pm Senior School
	18	Break up for half term at end of day.
	30	School Reopens
31	Halloween Disco in Hall	

Congratulations to

Abbi T in Year 10 who successfully auditioned for the Belgrade Pantomime, Neve, also Year 10 and Cordelia, Year 9 who successfully auditioned for Spa Centre and Nuneaton pantomimes respectively.

Mrs Patria and the Eco Team. Thanks to their efforts we are now the proud recipients of a Bronze Eco School Certificate.

Team Building at Alan Higgs

A successful morning was spent at the sports centre with teams of 10 from age 5 to 18 taking part in 8 activities including archery, hurdling, relay racing, and lots more. An energetic, fun time was had by all, with excellent coaches enthusing the children.