

Cavendish News

Friday 13th January 2017

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www.cavendishpta.org.uk

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome back, and happy new year! The children have settled back into school routine and are working hard in lessons. Once again, it's an action packed term with several trips and activities taking place. Year 3 start us off next week – each class will be visiting the John Rylands library in Manchester.

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new site team. Mr. Gary Ellison (who isn't really new, he has worked with us for a few years now, but has finally formally joined the Cavendish staff) is our new Site and Facilities Manager, and he will be supported by our new Caretaker, Mr. Mark Nash. Between them, they split a long working day – 6.30am to 9.30pm! It means that we can continue to be a community facility for local groups when the children and teachers have gone home. We are delighted to have them both on board!

LIVING STREETS WALK TO SCHOOL PROJECT

PARK AND STRIDE

This week the children met Simon Harrison from Living Streets. He works with lots of schools to deliver a walk to school project. It's a simple concept – the children record in school how they have travelled each day and earn credits that will win them a series of badges. We want those of you who bring your children to school by car to consider the following: **if you can see our school from where you park your car, YOU ARE PARKED TOO CLOSE.**

Please allow extra time for your journey, park further away, and stride the rest of the way in. The children know this as 'Park and Stride', a catchy title which we hope will stick in their minds and yours too.

Some school staff watched in amazement on Thursday when the driver of a dark grey car pulled up in the middle of the road, ignoring everything else around him, and a parent and child jumped out to run across the road into school. This is the kind of dangerous and thoughtless behaviour- not to mention that it is teaching children very poor road safety habits – that most of us want to see stopped. We know that the huge majority of you are entirely onside with us in relation to making our local roads safe, so please get into the habit of 'park and stride'.

OTHER NEWS

One of our parents, Helen Farrell, is hoping to trek along the Great Wall of China to raise money for Marie Curie. If you are interested in finding out more, or supporting her cause, here's a link to her Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Cat-Walkers>

Before Christmas, one of our Year 2 children took part in a joint Song and Dance show with other schools in Manchester and performed songs and dances from the musical 'Hairspray'. He worked very hard and did really well!



IMPORTANT MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

1. Collecting children at the end of the day

As you know, the number of children attending Cavendish is rising – we now have 660 pupils. It is extremely busy each afternoon as we ensure that all children are dispatched to the right place – be that to you, to after school club or to an activity club. The corridor outside the office is especially busy so, to make sure that we keep the children safe, we cannot let you cut through from the front door to the back door to access the playground. Instead, we request that you walk around the outside of the building to get to and from the playground. That way there is no chance of a child slipping through doors that are ajar – the doors are slow-closing to avoid trapping little fingers. Our main entrance opens out onto a busy road, so we are sure you will understand why we need to be vigilant about this.

2. Late pick ups

If you are late collecting your child, they will be kept safely at the office in the small area behind the new barrier. Please come to the main entrance to collect your child; if it is after 3:30pm you will be asked to sign your child out using our electronic system. Please do not send a sibling, because we need an adult to sign your child out. Please do not take your child without speaking to someone in the office – we need to know where the children are and that they have been collected safely.

We understand that accidents and emergencies happen which occasionally cause you to be late at the end of the day, and are sympathetic to this. If you keep us informed by phoning us and telling us about the issue, we are happy to help out where we can. However, repeatedly picking up your child late is both distressing to them and unacceptable to us. If you are not here by **3.50pm** and we have not heard from you, your child will be taken to the Out of School Club, incurring a late collection charge of £10.00.

If you need us to get a message to your child about a change in their pick up arrangements, it is essential that you call us well before 2.30pm. After this time, it is not practical to get messages to children because we do not have enough office staff to go round to individual classes **and** keep the office functioning.

3. Contact details

Please keep us informed about your up to date contact details. For example, if you had a new phone for Christmas, have you given us your new number? If your child was seriously ill, or had an accident, we would need to be able to get in touch with you as quickly as possible, so it's no use if the number we hold for you on our database is out of date.

If you know that your details have changed, please email (office@cavendish.manchester.sch.uk), call, or write to the office and tell us!

Our primary aim in all of these things is to keep your children safe, so please help us as much as you can. Thank you.