

THE PREMIER ACADEMY



EATON MILL SITE

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LTP 203

Dear Parents/Carers

Fantastic News – Champions of England

On Thursday 22 February TPA was honoured by the National Music Awards as having the best music department in the country. I repeat, the country! Beating four secondary schools in to second place! And third and fourth and fifth!

Unfortunately Jonathan was unable to attend however four TPA representatives took lots of pictures which we have uploaded to the website.

Whilst the award is for TPA the real hero behind the music improvement over the past three years is Jonathan. He has been, since the day he arrived, and he continues to be, like so many others, absolutely dedicated to the children of our great school.

I am therefore officially declaring Jonathan a Legend of TPA!

Even More Fantastic News

Jonathan, aka The Ledge, is now able to sit up and communicate with the use of an electronic aid. He is making good progress and we expect that he will make a full recovery. We have been sending him cards and messages however if anyone would like to add to the collection then please just drop them into the Atrium.

Charging Issues – School Dinners

There are a few people out there who like to bang a drum about us charging late fees because all we care about is money! This is simply not true. We charge late fees to cover staffing costs when people don't honour their commitments and to deter people from taking advantage of the staff's good will.

Since we introduced late collection fees we have seen a massive decrease in late collections which has meant that staff can leave on time.

Last Monday one of the school's Finance Officers spent 5 hours chasing non-payment of school dinners and not for the week we were in but for the week prior to half-term.

I am therefore writing to remind everyone of the policy towards payment of school dinners. School meals **must** be paid for in advance by the Tuesday of the previous week. Parents can pay via ParentMail or via the Atrium and a copy of the lunch menu is readily available from the Atrium for reference.

If a child comes to school without a packed lunch or a pre-paid lunch a daily **£5.00 surcharge** will be levied against the account to cover the cost of providing the school meal and administration. Therefore in the event that £11.00 isn't paid during the week before your child has dinner this amount will increase to £25.00 for the week. We will be implementing a much more stringent approach to this policy and trust that this will be met with your understanding. However, should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly.

Weather Information

If the Siberian weather continues to descend upon us over the next few days as predicted, you will need to check the school website for any closure updates. We will of course send texts as well however there have been occasions when the weather has been so bad that the texts have failed.

I did notice today that many children did not have gloves or hats so please prioritise these items as a matter of course and please remember that planning a wedding at this time of year is always a gamble as more often than not someone gets cold feet!

World Book Day and Dress Up Day

As per our text message, tomorrow is World Book Day and the children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character. However please ensure that priority is given to your child being dressed in suitable clothing and footwear for the weather conditions as outlined above. Therefore we will be happy to see children in a suitable non-uniform as an alternative and for them to bring in a change of footwear.

Book Fair

The Book Fair has arrived and families are able to visit together at the beginning or end of the day or of course send your child in with enveloped cash and we will support them with their spending. The Book Fair is with us until close of play on Tuesday 6 March.

Digital By Default

Please note that from August 2018 TPA will be using ParentMail and email for all communications. Last year we used 1300 reams of paper (500 pieces in one ream). One tree makes 16 reams therefore last year TPA was responsible for the deforestation of 81 fully grown trees. We have taken this action because of a personal request made to me from Halle in Year 5 for TPA to become more environmentally friendly. LTPs will also be posted on the website and texts will be sent to highlight that a letter has been posted. We will attempt to give more payment options via ParentMail and even use the app to book parents' evenings and make appointments with staff. There will inevitably be some paper still used by us however our initial target is to reduce the amount of paper by 25% therefore saving 20 trees.

When we cleared the site behind school we planted 4 trees for every one which we took down and it is our intention to continue this initiative by planting 60 new trees next year to offset our paper usage.

We are having a big push on the environment issue as each month we use around 1400 black bin bags and are looking into ways to reduce this kind of usage.

End of Learning Block 7

Finally we would like to remind you that the last day of Learning Block Seven will be **Thursday 29 March**. We will be open as normal and will **close at 3.15pm**. The After School Club will run until 6.00pm.

We return to the Academy on **Monday 9 April**. Academy holiday dates for 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 can be viewed online at www.tpamk.co.uk or on the TPA app, alternatively, please feel free to collect a copy from the Atrium.

Yours sincerely



Warren Harrison
Chief Executive Officer

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www.tpamk.co.uk