

30 June 2010

Dear Parents

May I thank you for your support with regards to our continued bid to maintain the high standards of The Snaith School.

As the shops seem to be full of school uniform at this time I have decided to send a reminder to all parents about the uniform expectations and to highlight one or two concerns that need to be sorted out as soon as possible. A full uniform list is attached and there will be uniform on sale in school on Monday 5 July from 5.30 - 7.00 pm.

Uniform – concerns

During the summer months young people are often tempted to experiment with fashion. *Extremes of hairstyle and colour* are not acceptable in school (we seem to have a few with close shaved hair at the moment – reminder – no shorter than a number 3 cut is acceptable for school or tramlines etc), neither are adornments such as those involved in facial, body piercing and tattoos. Apart from the fact that the latter are inappropriate in a school setting, they do constitute a serious Health and Safety risk in a busy environment. Pupils with extremes of haircut or colour, inappropriate uniform or facial or body piercing may be sent home.

School bags – pupils need a school bag big enough to accommodate all the books etc they need for one day – a small handbag (which some of the girls seem to be using at the moment) is not appropriate.

Skirts – these seem to be quite fashionable at the moment and we have quite a number of girls choosing this uniform option. Please ensure that the skirt is not too short and that tights are worn in line with uniform policy

Pumps – again these seem to be the height of fashion but are not suitable footwear for school

Bags2School

The Snaith School Association have arranged a further collection to boost school funds. Please bring to school all your unwanted clothes, bedding, curtains etc by Wednesday 7 July. Thanks very much for your continued support of this venture.

Motorbikes

Just a reminder that pupils are not allowed to come to school on motorbikes.

Helping the local community

As you are aware we do what we can to support the local community and there are two major concerns for which we continue to seek your support at the moment.

Some parents are causing disruption to the life of our near neighbours by parking in front of their drives (and sometimes refusing to move) and parking on the grass verge opposite the school. Traffic is very busy on Pontefract Road particularly at the end of the school day and we would ask parents to pick their children up away from the school site and to show consideration for the people who live in the immediate area. The other issues at present seems to be anti-social behaviour. We do a great deal of work in school as part of our Personal, Health and Social Education programme to provide pupils with information and allow them to explore issues and have involved a number of agencies

such as the Police. I will always respond to community concerns immediately and would inform parents if I had concerns about their child. Whilst I appreciate out of school hours our pupils are the responsibility of their parents, as a parent as well as the Headteacher, I would wish to be informed of any concerns the school had about the conduct of my child. I will continue to do anything that we are able to help prevent anti-social behaviour in the community.

Internet Safety/Mobile Phones

In school we do all we can to ensure internet safety, however, recently we have had to deal with a number of incidents in school which have been the result of using Facebook and other social networking sites at home (we do not allow these at school). Pupils have made very hurtful anonymous comments about other pupils and this has caused a great deal of upset. As parents it is essential that you monitor your child's use of the internet to ensure their safety. In addition, may I remind parents that mobile phones are not allowed in school under any circumstances. You will have read in the press no doubt about some of the problems caused in school by the inappropriate use of mobile phones and I would not wish for any child or member of staff to suffer any distress because of the consequences of this. If mobile phones are brought into school and seen by a member of staff they will be confiscated.

Examination results Year 9 and 10

As you are aware Year 9 and 10 have been involved in external GCSE examinations this summer. The results for **Year 10** will be available for collection on Tuesday 24 August from 11.00 am onwards. Results for **Year 9** will be distributed on Tuesday 7 September on their return to school. Any results not collected at these times will be sent by post.

Attendance Policy

As you may be aware from a report in the January edition of the East Riding News and subsequent items on local TV, children living in the East Riding of Yorkshire are more likely to miss school due to their parents taking them on term time holidays than in any other area of the country. This in turn has a negative impact on attainment. For example, in 2007 only 36 per cent of students in secondary schools with more than 12 days absence achieved 5 GCSEs compared to 91 per cent of students with an average of 6 days absence.

As a school we are committed to work with all other East Riding Schools and the Local Authority to reduce the number of school days missed due to term time holidays. At present the governors have decided to delay a decision until the Autumn term on implementing the full range of options available under a new policy introduced across the East Riding. However, we are advising parents that from September term time holidays should not be taken at the following times:

- During the first six weeks of any academic year for any pupils
- During Years 10 and 11 for any pupils
- At any time where any pupils will miss an external examination or where there are important school events which require attendance.

As there is no actual entitlement for parents to be able to take children out of school for a term time holiday, I would advise parents who are considering doing so to contact the school first to discuss the situation as otherwise the holiday **may** be counted as an unauthorised absence.

We have a number of events before the end of the school year which will be of interest to you:

Thursday 1 July	Primary School Music Jam
Saturday 3 July	Duke of Edinburgh Residential
Monday 5 July	Year 7 September 2010 Induction Day
	Year 7 September 2010 Parents Meeting
	Current Year 7 visit to Helmsley Castle

Wednesday 7 July	Uniform Sale – open to all 5.15 pm Year 10 visit to New College Pontefract Maths Challenge – John Leggott College
Thursday 8 July	Athletics Competition
Thursday 8 July	Year 9 visit from Theatre Company
Tuesday 13 July	Scunthorpe Athletics Competition
Wednesday 14 July	Lower School Presentation Evening
Thursday 15 July	Talent Show
Sunday 18 July – 23 July	Watersports Trip
Monday 19 July	Year 8 Rewards Trip to Flamingoland
Tuesday 20 July	Year 7 Rewards Trip to Lightwater Valley
Wednesday 21 July	Headingley Cricket visit Year 9/10 Rewards Trip to Alton Towers
Thursday 22 July	Morocco Trip departs
Friday 23 July	SCHOOL CLOSES

There have been many activities organised for pupils both in and out of school this year and I am sure you will join with me in thanking all the staff for all their hard work this year.

N. B. The term finishes at 3.35 pm on Friday 23 July and re-opens for all pupils on Tuesday 7 **September. You should receive a copy of the parents' calendar for 2010/11 before the end of term and I will also send out another newsletter outlining staffing and other changes for next term.**

The school profile can be viewed at <http://schoolsfinder.direct.gov.uk> and the school website on www.tss.eriding.net.

The Snaith School will, on request, provide this document in large print. If English is not your first language and you would like a translation of this document please contact the school.

Yours sincerely

J D Pickerill
Headteacher

School Term Dates – 2010 - 2011

School Opens	Tuesday 7 September	School Closes	Thursday 21 October
School Re-opens	Monday 1 November	School Closes	Tuesday 21 December
School Re-opens	Thursday 6 January 2011	School Closes	Friday 18 February
School Re-opens	Monday 28 February	School Closes	Friday 15 April
School Re-opens	Wednesday 4 May	School Closes	Friday 27 May
School Re-opens	Monday 6 June	School Closes	Friday 22 July

School Closed, Bank Holiday –	Monday 2 May 2011
Teacher Training Day -	Monday 6 September 2010
Teacher Training Day -	Friday 22 October 2010
Teacher Training Day -	Wednesday 5 January 2011
Teacher Training Day -	Tuesday 3 May 2011
Teacher Training Day -	Monday 25 July 2011

