Connaught
Junior School
"Caring, Confident, Committed"

Friday 15th September 2023

Dear Connaught Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic start we have had to our school year! The new Year 3s are settling in well and there is a very positive vibe around the school. How lucky I am to have such a great team!

We had our Meet the Teacher meetings this week in the main school hall where parents could hear from the teaching teams and then have the opportunity to have a quick look around the classrooms. We have had very positive feedback about these so thank you. The slides from the evening will be uploaded onto the website soon, if you were unable to attend.

Parents' Evenings this Autumn term are going to be on 17th and 19st October. We have been asked about whether they are going to be face to face or online and the answer is, both! The first one will be face to face and the second one online. This is to accommodate those parents/carers who have a particular preference, especially those who would struggle to leave work to attend but could spare 10 minutes to join online. We will take feedback on this once these have taken place.

Last year, our children were given sunflower seeds by Mrs Bensemann, in memory of the lovely Polly Appleton-Jones, a teacher at our school who died from Leukaemia in April 2022 (our STEAM Lab is named in her memory). Many of these sunflowers were planted in back gardens around Bagshot and it seems that the changeable weather over the summer has been great for them as some are incredibly tall. We have several in our reflection garden at the front of the school which have been admired by parents visiting the site. If you have any photos of sunflowers that you planted, please email them into the school office and I will include them in the next newsletter at the end of September.

At Connaught, we do our best to offer as wide a range of clubs as possible. The office staff have worked hard to get as many children onto clubs as possible. You will be finding out if your child has a place later this evening.

Thank you so much for sending your children into school looking so smart! We are sticklers for the correct uniform and really appreciate your support with this. I have already had lots of compliments from new parents about how great the children look, especially when they are out and about after school.

The brand-new Connaught Castle is proving to be a big hit with our children from Year 3 to Year 6! In the first week, the children had training on how to use it safely so they can use it at breaktimes and lunchtimes every day. On a Monday, it will be used by the year group with the best attendance over the previous week. The children will not be in PE kit that day but must have shoes on with a good, grippy sole, as per the uniform policy. Any child wearing shoes with smooth soles will not be permitted on for safety reasons.

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You may have heard that football has been suspended until we were able to regroup and apply some sensible measures. Children, often those who play in clubs outside school, take football incredibly seriously and this can lead to friendship fall outs and other undesirable behaviour resulting in great upset. Miss Whiting has been working with the children on making sure that the football at lunchtimes is well regulated and fair for all. Football will recommence next week with tighter rules that all players will have signed up to. If this goes well, we may be able to expand this plan, having more children playing over the week. Please speak to your children about good sportsmanship to avoid them making poor choices in their behaviour and missing out on playing football altogether!

We are holding our usual Open Mornings for prospective parents on 18th October and 15th November. This is a great opportunity for parents of Year 2 children to have a tour by a senior leader and our Year 6 Captains to see if Connaught would suit their child. If you know of anyone who will be looking for a Year 3 place for 2024-5, please point them in our direction. Details are on the school website.

And lastly, just a quick reminder that dogs are not allowed on the school site.

Have a great weekend!

Regards
Miss McGann