



## Thank you Premier Foods!!

We have been very fortunate and have received a donation of £200 from Premier Foods!

Mrs Keeka, whose son Kurush is in Year R, works for Premier Foods. She very kindly entered the school into a competition the company ran at Christmas. The 'Spirit of Christmas' competition allowed employees to nominate worthy causes which would benefit from a donation. Her entry was successful and hence we have received £200 which we will put towards the improvements in the Lower School playground.

I want to thank Mrs Keeka for thinking of us and Premier Foods for their generosity!



## Academy News

The academy conversion continues apace and so far the solicitors and the DfE haven't raised any issues which might prevent us converting as planned on 1st March. Sometimes problems with the lease, land issues, rights of way etc can hold the process up, but hopefully there won't be anything to prevent our conversion.

I will let you know more in the next newsletter.

## Dropping Off Again!

Our caretaker, Mr Smith has just spoken to me about another concern regarding our car park.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, and as I have repeatedly mentioned for the past 7 years, we have had ongoing problems trying to control the movement of cars on the school site. I spent years pleading with parents not to drive onto the site because the car park is too small and becomes too crowded for anyone to see properly and for cars to manoeuvre safely.

We all know that children don't walk anywhere, they run. We also all know that they run without looking or generally being aware of anything which is around them. We were really worried that it was only a matter of time before a child got knocked over by a car manoeuvring in the car park whilst the children walked/ran across it at the beginning or end of the school day.

Despite all our pleading, a minority of parents didn't listen and eventually we had to spend thousands of pounds installing barriers to prevent parents driving into the car park.

But, we still tried to take a sensible approach and the barriers only come into operation after 8.20am and up till 4.35pm, to allow you to drive onto the site when it is relatively free of pedestrians, in order to drop your children off at the Breakfast Club, or pick them up from the After School Club.

But over the past few mornings, Mr Smith has seen cars which are obviously being driven by parents who are late for work, and consequently they have either sped onto the site or sped off it, or both. He saw one silver BMW nearly take off as it went over our speed bumps.

What is the matter with some of you?! This is a school. Even at 8am, there are children walking around the site, particularly now that we have a nursery here as well as our own Breakfast Club. If you're late, tough. Get up earlier. Get yourself sorted. Or just arrive late at work. But don't drive your car at any speed on this site.

When you drive through our gates to drop your child at Breakfast Club, **drive expecting a child to run out in front of you.** If you do that and it actually happens, you will at least have a chance of stopping before you hit them, and if you do hit them, at least it will be at a speed which may prevent any serious injury. If you drive like a maniac because you're late for work, it will only be a matter of time before a child is hurt, or God help us even worse.

Despite all of our pleadings, we have had to install barriers to limit access to the site and we have speed bumps to try to control the speed at which cars drive around the site. However, it still doesn't seem to be enough. If parents continue to speed on the site we will alter the barriers so that no parent has access to the site in the morning.

## Adult Education Courses

A great many parents will agree with me when I say that we are extremely fortunate to have Louise Moore here every Friday morning. Louise is the Adult Education tutor who runs the free courses which are available to our parents. We have been running the courses here for a number of years now and a large number of parents have both benefitted from and enjoyed attending them. Without fail, the parents rave about the quality of the courses and about the quality of Louise's teaching.

Please be assured that you don't go 'back to school' if you attend them. They are very relaxed affairs, but also very effective in providing you with the skills to support your children's education as effectively as possible.

The latest course is called 'Family English' and, as usual, it is taking place in the removal room next to Mrs Jones' room, every Friday morning between 9.10 and 11.55.

This course will help you brush up on your own skills as well as enable you to support your child's learning more effectively. There are a few places still available, so if you are interested in attending, please contact Louise on 07913 640835, or e mail her at [louise.moore@kent.gov.uk](mailto:louise.moore@kent.gov.uk).

## Message from Independent Caterers

As I mentioned in the December newsletter, after reviewing the school meal provision at the school, we are changing our contractor. The meals service was previously run by the Contract Dining Company, but as from the beginning of term 5, after the Easter holidays, Independent Caterers will be the new contractor.

*From the start of the summer term Independent Catering will be providing the lunch service for the school. We are delighted to have been chosen to partner Godinton Primary School providing our range of freshly prepared food for your child.*

*Independent Catering is based in Sevenoaks and have been providing healthy school lunches for over 18 years.*

*Our philosophy is based on using fresh local produce from Kent based suppliers which means healthy lunches that your child will enjoy. Everything is prepared on site by Hazel and her team. And our menus have been accredited with the Silver Food for Life which underlines our commitment to fresh, local and seasonal food of which 5% is from organic sources.*

*Our 6 weekly cycle menu includes a freshly prepared main meal (with a vegetarian choice) with a homemade dessert. We also have a choice of pasta or a jacket potato with fresh salad pots to complement the main offer. There will be no change to the lunch price as it will remain at £2.20.*



*All our menus are available on line at our website-[www.independentcatering.co.uk](http://www.independentcatering.co.uk).*

*If your child has an allergen please do come and discuss their requirements with us.*

*So come and give it a try you won't be disappointed.*

Independent Catering will be switching to an online payment system which will require you to pay for your child's meals online. You won't be able to pay for dinners by sending in cash or cheques each week. However, we do appreciate that not everyone has access to the internet and there will be provision for you to come into school and use a computer here to pay for the meals if you need to. I will give you more details of how this is going to operate in the next newsletter.