



Executive Headteacher: Miss K Howarth

Head of School: Mrs J Payne

Office Administrator: Mrs D Hoar



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13th September 2017

Dear Parents,

J Rock 2017-2018

As you are aware we are making a few changes to our approaches to J Rock this year! For those of you that unaware 'J Rock' stands for Junior Rock Challenge and is a National competition that encompasses dance and drama. This year we are entering as a Federation in an attempt to capitalise on our experience and expertise across the schools and therefore create a much more collaborative approach. This sharing of ideas and resources should also reduce both the burden and cost on the individual school communities.

The theme for this year is '*Search for the Immortal Soul*'. Our story will feature characters based on a Hans Christian Anderson text and we will need Kings, Sorcerers, Prince, and Mermaids. Our vision is exciting, colourful with even more dramatic lifts, tricks and spins than in previous years. Costume and prop designs are already being discussed and any help would be welcome with these aspects. As many children as would like to be involved are able to be whether it is through performing on the stage or via one of the back stage aspects.

To avoid continually asking for voluntary contributions we are changing our approach to the financing of the venture this year. In the past parents have been charged separately for club attendance approximately £40, transport to the event approximately £10, T Shirts for the day approximately £8 etc as well as significant additional fundraising on top. This year we are requesting a non-refundable £60 fee to cover the following:

- Attendance at all J Rock club and rehearsals Wednesday 3-4pm until the event (March 2018)
- In-school choreography tuition from Dance Tutor, Michelle Davies
- J Rock T Shirt - to be worn to rehearsals please.
- Ferry fare to and from the competition.
- Individual participation fee for the competition.

Between the two schools we have accumulated many costumes and set items over the past few years which can be combined and reused/re-cycled and therefore any additional fundraising ventures should be minimal. The school obviously makes significant financial contribution and will continue to do so to supplement this very worthwhile aspect of curriculum enrichment.





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We have taken note of parental concerns and feedback regarding the proposal of working with our Federated school. Please be reassured that all rehearsals will take place at Newchurch Primary every Wednesday 3-4pm. In the event that your child is not required for the rehearsal they will be given a free pass to join one of the other clubs hosted on a Wednesday. This will eliminate the pupil frustrations of staying at a club and only be required to rehearse for a short amount of time.

An Arts Week has been planned for the week commencing 5th February 2018 for both schools. During this week all of the school community will be participating in Arts based activities and members of J Rock will be required to rehearse at Newchurch Primary but during school hours. Transport arrangements will be confirmed but it is not anticipated that any arrangement will impact upon our community of working parents as we have access to the Federation minibuses.

It is politely requested that your child be available to rehearse also on Monday 12th February (Monday of Half Term) should an additional rehearsal date be needed, this will be confirmed nearer the time. The final 2 weeks of Tuesday rehearsals after February half term may need to be combined or separate depending on the specific needs of the cast at this time.

We have tried to give as much information as possible at this stage in the school year. Your support and encouragement has been fundamental to our success in this competition in the past and we look forward to this positive team approach again this year!

The fee of £60 we ask to be paid in instalments - £20 as per normal for the clubs now, and £40 by Wednesday November 1st please through the School Money online system preferably.

Yours sincerely,

Miss K Howarth

