

7 September 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome to the start of a new school year. I hope you and your children had a fantastic summer break. The children have settled back in really well and our new reception children have made a promising start.

We wish all the children new to our school a fantastic time with us.

We also welcome some new members of staff: Mrs Robinson, Nursery Manager; Miss Fiddymont, Nursery Assistant; Miss Tuckwell, Nursery Assistant; Mrs Wright, teacher in FS (Cygnets class); Miss Dilallo, teacher in Year 2 (Polar Bear class) and Miss Field, teacher in Year 6 (Heron class).

### **Dates for Academic year 2018- 2019**



A list of dates is attached. Please remember to check the school website for updates.

### **Library van visits**



Dates for the Library van are listed on the academic year date information. Please note the first visit is **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September**.

### **Uniform and equipment**



A reminder that in term 1, and whilst the nicer weather is still with us, the children can wear the summer uniform until the October half-term break. When we return on the 29<sup>th</sup> October the children will need to be wearing their winter uniform.

A reminder also that trainers **are not** permitted to be worn during the day other than at break times and in games lessons. The children must therefore come in to school wearing their school shoes. Details of the uniform can be found on the website.

Long hair, for health and safety and hygiene reasons should be tied back throughout the day and hair bands/bows etc. kept to a sensible size and in line with the school colours.

Jewellery, other than a watch, is not permitted in school and earrings must be studs only. The children must be able to remove these themselves for PE.

Nail varnish is not permitted in school.

Equipment – all equipment (pens, pencils, felt-tips etc.) are provided for in school and are expected to be used for consistency of presentation in the children's books. The children should not therefore bring in their own equipment and pencil cases.

### Mobile phones

A reminder that our school is a **mobile free zone** for the safeguarding of our children. This applies to both adults and children who bring their mobiles onto the school site. Children should only bring their mobile phones into school if they walk to and from school by themselves. The mobile phone must be handed into the school office at the start of the day and collected at the end of the day.



### **School dinners**

The cost of a school dinner is currently £2.05 a day, £10.25 per week, for Key Stage 2 children. Payments for dinners should be made online via the ParentMail system used by the school or by cheque which should be made payable to The Contract Dining Company.

A reminder that all Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children receive Universal Free School meals provided by the Government and **do not** therefore need to bring a packed lunch (unless your child has a medical condition and it has been discussed with us).



### **ParentMail**

As most of you know, ParentMail is used for whole school communication (letters, invites, messages etc.), fees such as Key Stage 2 dinner payments, trips, swimming, Breakfast Club and After School Club. Please can you ensure that you are registered onto the ParentMail system which can be found at <https://pmx.parentmail.co.uk>



### **Absence during term time**

The school has a dedicated absence line to report sickness, medical appointments etc. on the first day of absence. Please speak clearly, leaving your child's name, class and reason for absence, (ill, does not suffice, please be more descriptive). Upon your child's return to school you need to send an absence letter or complete an absence form which is available at the office.

Just a reminder that absence from school for holiday can no longer be authorised by Headteachers. Absence can only be authorised for exceptional circumstances such as a death of a close family member, renewal of foreign passports/visas, weddings within the immediate family, .....

We understand this may cause some difficulties but we are bound by government legislation.



### Meet the teacher

We would like to invite you to “meet the teacher” on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September (FS/KS1) and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September (KS2).** We have arranged the following timetable for these events: -

Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 – 2.00 p.m.	Y2
	2.00 – 2.30 p.m.	Y1
	2.30 – 3.00 p.m.	FS
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	1.00 – 1.30 p.m.	Y6
	1.30 – 2.00 p.m.	Y5
	2.00 – 2.30 p.m.	Y4
	2.30 – 3.00 p.m.	Y3

A schedule for each year group for the year will be issued by the class teachers at these meetings.



### Reading

Reading, as you know, is a skill for all children to master. Throughout the curriculum, we highlight to the children, the importance of acquiring fluency and understanding of texts. We promote in school every opportunity to practise this skill and kindly ask for your support, no matter what age your child is, by reading daily with or listening to your child read at home.

To this effect all children are issued with a book and a reading record to be completed by an adult. These should come in and out of school every day.

We look forward to seeing a rise in the number of books read or shared by the children throughout the year with you.



### Homework

The children receive homework regularly to enhance and secure their learning in a variety of topics and/or skills. We expect all children to attempt the tasks and for the work to be returned to their teacher for marking. This allows us to further identify any gaps that your child may have in a particular subject and/or develop their knowledge in others.

In KS2 we run two clubs at lunchtime (Tuesdays and Thursdays) during the week to support the children who may have struggled with the homework or may have not had sufficient time to complete it at home.

On occasions your child may be asked by his/her teacher to attend one of the clubs for them to be supported with some of the tasks. We would also welcome your comments if you feel following a particular difficulty with a piece of homework that your child would benefit from gaining further support.

### **Gate times**

The school gates are open in the morning from 8.35 – 8.45 a.m. If your child arrives after the gates close they must be **signed in** at the office **by an adult**.

### **Entry to school** –

As you know and will have noticed we are still in the midst of our building project and therefore still experiencing access restrictions in various parts of the school.

We have currently limited entry points into the building in the mornings.

KS1 parents would only usually come as far as our side door and a member of staff would see the children into the building at that entry point; KS2 parents would drop the children off at the gate and the children would make their own way to class.

However, due to the side door being out of action for a period of time parents of children in Y1 and Y2 **only** should walk their children to the classroom doors. There is no need for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 children to be accompanied further than the gate, as was previously our system.

Reception children continue to be delivered and collected from the classrooms as per usual.

We will keep you updated as and when entry to school might change or resume to normal practice and would really appreciate your support and understanding with the current situation.

We look forward to another great year working with you and your children.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Easton  
Headteacher