13th September 2023

Welcome Back Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you had a lovely summer break. We are delighted to have your children back in school and we have had a lovely few days back at school.

Just a few reminders:

**Uniform:**

**Boys:** pale blue or yellow polo shirt, grey trousers (shorts can be worn in warm weather), royal blue sweatshirt, plain grey or black socks

**Girls:** pale blue or yellow polo shirt, grey skirt or pinafore (blue or yellow checked summer dresses can be worn in warm weather), royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan, plain white, grey or black socks or tights. Girls may also wear trousers but not leggings unless a PE day.

**PE kit:** navy shorts, school PE t-shirt, sandshoes for indoor PE (trainers may be worn for outdoor PE activities). Black / navy / grey leggings or jogging bottoms can also be worn on a PE day as children will come to school dressed in PE kit on a PE day. School uniform jumpers / cardigans must also be worn(brought to school) on a PE day.

In order to support parents, there is no expectation to have logoed school uniform (you are asked to purchase one logoed jumper or cardigan for school visits for safeguarding purposes). We also have a large supply of recycled school uniform – please ensure that you label uniform to reduce the amount of lost property and please take advantage of the recycle / reuse uniform to reduce waste and save you money.

All children are expected to wear **sensible black school shoes** (boots may be worn to travel to school in bad weather but school footwear should be worn in school)

**Jewellery** (other than a watch if a child is able to tell the time) and make up (including nail varnish) are not permitted.

**Haircuts** should be sensible and appropriate for school. Long hair must be tied up.

**School bags** should be small, preferably a school book bag, unless the child is going swimming or on a visit. Children should not bring pencil cases or additional stationary to school as we provide everything that is required.

**Hats** should be worn on sunny days.

Children should bring a water bottle to school – this should contain water (not juice).

**Snacks:**

Fruit is provided as a snack in KS1. Children may bring a snack for break time – this should be a ‘healthy snack’, preferably fruit or a cereal bar (no chocolate or sweets)

**Packed Lunches:**

We encourage children to have a school meal as the kitchen provides a healthy and balanced diet. If you do want your child to have a packed lunch, this should be a healthy, balanced meal – no chocolate, sweets or fizzy pop. Items like crisps and chocolate biscuits can form part of the packed lunch but should be balanced with healthy alternatives where possible and perhaps limited to just a few days each week.

**Toilet Procedures:**

Children are reminded and encouraged to use the bathroom during break and lunchtime.

Children are discouraged from using the toilet during lesson times, unless otherwise informed by parents (or in the case of an emergency). Some children may need to use the bathroom more frequently, due to medical reasons, staff will accommodate this if informed by parents.

**Pencil cases and bags / Personal items:**

Pencil cases should not be brought in from home, all stationary is provided in class. Large bags are not necessary, children may bring book-bags, small packed lunch bags but not large backpacks – there is limited space to store items for all of our children. All bags should be stored in the cloakroom or lockers. Personal items, including toys, must not be brought in from home.

In specific cases, where a child is experiencing a significant separation anxiety issue, they may need a small ‘transition item’ – these should be stored safely in trays or by the staff as appropriate (this is always discussed with school staff)

**Late Arrivals:**

We operate a soft opening in the morning. Children can come into school from 8.40am, this helps to reduce congestion, both outside of school and in the school corridor. The school day officially starts at 8.50am and learning beings immediately with the first part of the day focusing on basic skills in English and maths. Children who arrive after the school day has started (8.50am) must access school via the main entrance and report to the office to sign in – parents are required to sign late-comers in.

# Home / School Agreement:

At the start of last academic year, all parents from EYFS to Year 6 signed and returned the Home School Agreement. Pupils from Y3 up over signed the pupil section for themselves. This week, staff are reviewing the pupil section and the school section of the Home School Agreement in class as a reminder of the expectations. I will be sending home a new contract with EYFS as new members of our school community for parents to read, sign and return. I will also be sending home a copy of the Home School Agreement with our Year 3 children for them to read (with you), sign and return.

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind parents of their agreement to school and our agreement to you and your child(ren):

**Home School Agreement: Parents / Carers**

* Ensure that my / our child attends school every day, is punctual and is collected on time
* Ensure that my / our child is dressed in correct uniform (labelled) and sensible black school shoes
* Contact school on the first morning that my / our child is absent and provide updates when necessary
* Keep the school informed with up-to-date contact details e.g. address, telephone number and emergency contact numbers
* Inform the school if there are any factors that may affect my / our child’s work or behaviour
* Support the school’s policies and guidelines for behaviour
* Support my / our child with work at home and other opportunities for home learning
* Encourage my / our child to read by providing opportunities for him / her to read to someone and ensure that someone reads with him / her
* Attend parent’s meetings to support my / our child and his / her progress
* Endeavour not to arrange holidays during school time, particularly during key assessment times e.g. phonics screener, End of Key Stage SATs
* Support all staff in their efforts to create a caring community which values children

**Home School Agreement: School Agreement**

* Support and work with parents to meet the needs of their children
* Create a warm, stimulating environment based on Christian values, where child and family feel accepted and secure
* Offer parents / carers opportunities to become involved in school life
* Offer a broad, balanced and stimulating curriculum, which addresses the children’s emotional, spiritual, physical, social and academic development
* Encourage children to reach their full potential and be the best that they can be
* Keep parent’s informed about general school matters and in particular about the progress of their child
* Provide opportunities for Parent’s Evenings and produce written reports to inform parents of their child’s attainment, progress and involvement
* Let parents / carers know if we have any concerns about a child academically, socially, emotionally or with regards to behaviour
* Take children to our parish church to be involved in parish and school masses and encourage children to make prayer an integral part of their daily lives
* Help children to develop a good self-image to enable them to become confident, well-balanced and caring individuals
* Contact parents as soon as possible in case of emergencies

**Medical Tracker:**

We have recently purchased an online medical tracker which will improve communications between school and home with regards to minor bumps and injuries. You will be informed via email if your child has had an accident / injury which has required any first aid response – this is for information purposes only and you will not be required to take any action. If, however, your child has a more serious accident we will continue to make immediate telephone contact.

**Forthcoming Curriculum Evening:**

Every class teacher will be holding a ‘Curriculum Evening’ in the week commencing 25th September. It is very important that you make every effort to attend this meeting as important information will be shared with parents (no children to attend). The meeting will last for approximately 45 minutes and is an opportunity for you to learn all about the teaching and learning in your child’s class and meet the staff.

Year 1: Tuesday 26th September 4.30pm

Year 2: Tuesday 26th September 4.30pm

Year 3: Wednesday 27th September 4.30pm

Year 4: Monday 25th September 4.30pm

Year 5: Wednesday 27th September 4.30pm

Year 6: Monday 25th September 4.40pm

(this is not individual appointments this is a full class meeting)

A meeting will be scheduled for Reception parents later in the half term (proposed date 11th October – confirmation to follow).

Finally, can I politely ask parents to support each other and staff by not blocking entrances and exits at the start and end of the day to allow other parents to get into / out of school with their children and can I please remind parents to be mindful of the language that they use in and around the yard and ensure that it is appropriate for children’s ears.

Thank you for a successful start to the school year.

Please do not hesitate to speak to staff if you have a question or concern.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further clarification with regards to anything in this newsletter.

Kind regards

Mrs Young