

Please note: this is the first and only time that you will receive a newsletter in a paper copy.

See later in this letter for details. Thanks.

Thursday 5th September 2019

I hope you all had a lovely summer. The weather has been a bit mixed this summer but still, I hope you managed to enjoy some sunshine and spend some time relaxing and having fun.

As well as welcoming back the children we already know, I would like to offer a very warm welcome to all new pupils, parents and staff. I hope our year 3s, and any other new children who have joined us in other year groups, settle in quickly, make lots of new friends and enjoy learning at Driffield Junior School.

I must say, we have had a great start so far!

Another special welcome goes to our new staff:

- Mr Lowe – teacher in year 4
- Miss Potter - teaching assistant
- Mrs Ward - teaching assistant
- Mrs Shepherdson – teaching assistant (temp)

I'm sure they'll all enjoy working within our wonderful staff team and with our fabulous children.

We currently have vacancies for support staff; please see the East Riding 'Recruit' website for more details.

Mrs Laird absence

I apologise that I am not out and about at the moment meeting and talking to children and their families, but I am recovering from an operation that I had during the holidays. I will be in school on occasions to catch up with what's going on and to collect work that I can complete at home. Mrs Dixon and our other senior staff are more than capable of leading the school in my short term absence and, as I mentioned, I am fully aware of events in school which will make my return much easier.

Who do I contact?

We want all children to settle quickly and be happy at school. If you have any queries or concerns, please do

not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher in the first instance as he/she will more than likely be able to help you.

Depending upon the nature of your query/concern, you may wish to speak to the school office staff, your child's year leader (see below), our SENDCo (Mrs Holgate), Deputy Head (Mrs Dixon), our Pupil and Family Support and Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Tate) or myself.

Year leaders:

Year 3 – Mr Addy, Year 4 – Mr Tarrant, Year 5 – Mrs Broadbent, Year 6 – Mrs Mudd

PE Kit/School Uniform

I can't stress this enough: **Please, please, please** name all items of school uniform and PE kit to avoid the upset (and expense) of losing something. Details of when PE lessons will be will be posted on our app and website shortly, so please ensure your child has the correct kit at school on these days. Many parents prefer to send PE kit to school on a Monday and take it home for washing on a Friday. This is a great way of making sure your child does not miss his/her PE lessons!

Lost Property



It is inevitable that children sometimes lose things. Labelled lost property is returned to its owner very easily but unnamed property causes us some real problems. We are not able to store the large amounts of lost property that frequently accumulates in school so we will only keep items for approximately 4 weeks. I therefore ask that, in addition to labelling everything, you check that your child comes home with everything they should and, if not, either they or you pop in to school to look in the lost property bin which is situated near the main office.

Curriculum details – please see the school website

Normally we send out a curriculum newsletter at the start of each term so that you are aware of what your child is learning in each subject area. With the new curriculum starting this year, we will shortly be displaying details of the curriculum for each year group on our website. We will let you know when the information is there! www.driffieldjuniorschool.co.uk

IMPORTANT: SCHOOL APP – Please download our free APP (search for ‘School Jotter’ to download the APP then look for ‘Driffield Junior School’) so that you receive letters, alerts, reminder, photographs and so on. As much as possible we are a ‘paperless’ school so, without the APP (or looking regularly on the website), you will undoubtedly miss something important. Of course we realise that some people do not have a smart phone or may wish to request paper copies for another reason. If this is the case, please notify the school office.

You may instead wish to receive newsletters via email. Please see our website for details (click on the ‘Information for parents’ tab under ‘letters’).

Please note, we ask that parents do not communicate with teachers via the school dojo reward system. If anyone has done this so far, please don't be offended if the teacher has not responded. Apologies if you were not aware of this. Thanks.

Planners

This will be the 4th successive year that every child will receive a high quality bespoke planner which has been specifically designed to meet the needs of each year group. As you will see, the planner has a user friendly reading record section and many other useful resources.

Please ensure that your child reads frequently at home with an adult and that the planner is signed; reading a few times a week for 10 minutes is more beneficial than a long session once a week and also encourages a love of reading (which is what we want).

It is important that the planners are used respectfully for their intended purposes and that children look after them. We only have a few spares and these are being saved for any new children who join us mid-way through the year. Children need to bring their planner to school each day so we ask for your help in ensuring that this happens. Thanks.

Dropping off and picking up children

At the start of every new school year we have a larger than usual number of parents on the playground before school and after school so it is important that we are as organised as we can be, especially at home-time.



The mornings are already going well; thank you to those parents who have supported us by avoiding standing in the area of the playground where years 3 and 4 children line up.

Recognising that many parents with more than one child have to get them to different schools at similar times, we employ morning playground supervisors and gate monitors from 8.30am to ensure children are safe on site and remain on site.

At home-time, year 3 children are handed over to a parent or other adult that we know about. If you wish your year 3 child to be picked up by anyone else (either permanently or occasionally) please do let us know so that this is noted.

Children in years 4 to 6 leave their classroom without the same handover process. Their parents may allow them to walk home alone or with friends, they may still wish to wait for them on the playground or they may decide to meet their child at a pre-arranged place e.g. near the school gates, part way down Wansford Road, near the traffic lights in town or elsewhere depending on where they live. Meeting somewhere other than the playground certainly does help to alleviate the pressures of a busy playground and I know that many parents feel that it promotes some independence in their children too.

For years 4 to 6, we say to children that if they are meeting an adult and that person is not there, they should come back into school so we can contact parents. This is a process that works well.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Entitlement to free school meals

Unlike the infant schools, we do not have universal free school meals here at the Junior School. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals contact East Riding Council. You can easily apply online or in

person. There is a link to the relevant pages of the council website on our school website under the school meals tab.

Did you know....just registering your child for free meals means that the school gets extra money? If you are registered for free meals you also get other benefits, such as free music tuition, free access to our breakfast club and help towards the cost of school visits.

The Government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called "Pupil Premium".

Even if your child does not want to have school dinners, please register if you qualify, to make sure your child and others in their class don't miss out on the funding. No-one will know you have registered and it does not affect any other benefits your family may be entitled to, but can make a difference to the support we can give children in school.

Key dates for your calendar

Further details will follow but here are some key dates that you may wish to note.

Wed 11 th Sept	Important meeting for year 6 parents – SATs and Dobroyd visit – 6pm
Fri 20 th Sept	Visitors from Malawi in school. Non-uniform day to raise funds for school in Malawi (suggested donation of £1)
Fri 27 th Sept	9am to 11am – Macmillan Coffee Morning – main hall p.m. Race for Life event (instead of annual Fun Run)
Mon 7 th Oct	Individual photos
Wed 16 th Oct	Open morning – 9am to 10.30am come and see your child in his/her classroom and have a look round school to see us 'in action' – coffee and biscuits at 10.30am in the hall.
Tues 22 nd & Wed 23 rd Oct	Parents' evenings
Fri 25 th Oct	Training day – school closed
Week starting Mon 28 th Oct	Half term – school closed
Tues 5 th Nov	Y3 Read & Stay afternoon – more details to follow.
Mon 11 th Nov	Year 5 Remembrance assembly to parents – 9.30am
Mon 16 th Dec	Year 3 party day
Tues 17 th Dec	Year 4 party day

Wed 18 th Dec	Year 5 party day
Thurs 19 th Dec	Year 6 party day

And finally...

We have had another very positive start to the school year and our new pupils have been very mature in the way they have already started to settle in – fantastic! I think the transition process from KS1 has been particularly successful in giving them the confidence they have needed at this potentially tricky time in their lives. That said, there will always be a few 'wobbles' so, if you have any concerns, please do contact us as I mentioned earlier.

I am excited about the term ahead and what it will bring, and look forward to getting to know everyone as soon as possible.

L J Laird - Headteacher