

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.

Friday 11th September 2020

WELCOME BACK TO DJS.

It's so great to see everyone. It really has been spine tingling to hear the buzz of chatter and laughter coming from classrooms, and see children happily playing with their friends outside. We are all SO happy to have had 99% of our children in school this week.



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. Our year 3s, and new children who have joined us in other year groups, seem to be settling in brilliantly and I'm really proud of them for being so grown up

Another special welcome goes to our new staff who, again, are already valued members of our staff team.

Mrs Leggett (year 6 TA) has left us to take on a different career path. We wish her well in her new venture and thank her for her outstanding contribution which has had a positive impact on many children (and staff) over the last few years.

I think we have had a super start to the year, even though current circumstances have made many of our usual school procedures difficult, or impossible, to follow. The new systems at the start and end of the day have got slicker as the week has progressed and internal systems for breaks, lunchtimes etc have been mostly problem free.



I'd like to say a huge thank you for your support, co-operation and patience. We are trying our best to make things as straightforward as we can for yourselves, whilst maintaining a sensible approach to ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone.

IMPORTANT: SCHOOL APP – It is essential that you download our free APP (search for 'School Jotter' to download the APP then look for 'Driffield Junior School') so that you receive letters, alerts, reminders, photographs and so on. We are almost 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 so may instead wish to receive newsletters via email. Please see our website for details (click on the 'Information for parents' tab under 'letters').

Year 3 – entry to school on a morning

Since all pupils head straight to their classrooms as they enter the site, now that the year 3s know where they are going I would ask that parents allow them to walk in on their own, saying their goodbyes at the gate. Many are doing this already which is great to see! If your year 3 child is still a bit 'wobbly' about going in on their own, we will have another week of allowing parents on to the site to help them gain a little more confidence. As you know, there are staff around to help them if they need it so they will be in safe hands. Thanks.

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.

Reading books

Please, if you have any school reading books lurking at home, send them in with your child as soon as possible. We are missing a huge number of books at present. Many thanks.



Crossing roads

A member of the public passed on their concern about children crossing over on Wansford Road to meet parents waiting at the other side. This is a very busy and congested road so it is important, for their safety, that children either use the crossing at the lights or parents wait on the same side as the school, but perhaps further down the road.

A few reminders

- Please can children having a packed lunch bring a small drink with their lunch in addition to having their water bottle at school? Thanks.
- Please label all items of clothing, including PE kit. Already we are gathering lost items that we are struggling to match up with their owners.
- It is preferable that children with mid length to long hair have it tied back for school to avoid them touching their face too often, as well as reducing the chance of them catching the dreaded head lice.
- Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform. It is important that they have a positive school identity and take pride in being a pupil at DJS. Details

of our expected uniform are on the school website.

- Children should not bring items to school over and above those that were mentioned on the letter we sent out. They **CAN** bring a coat, a bag to transport their reading book, planner etc, a PE bag (though this is best left at school until it needs a wash, a filled water bottle, a packed lunch with a drink included (if applicable), their healthy snack for break time, sun cream if needed and hand cream if desired.

They must **NOT** bring their own pencil case as everything they need for school is provided for them. Nor should they bring teddies or toys at the moment.

Hopefully at some point in the future these Covid related rules will be relaxed again to allow us to modify these restrictions.



Finally, I would like to wish all children, their families and our staff a lovely weekend. The weather is due to be glorious so hopefully we will be able to enjoy some outside time in the sunshine.

Stay safe, and I'll see you all on Monday for another positive week.

L J Laird - Headteacher