

28/09/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable weekend.

We seem to have drifted into autumn quite suddenly and as well as the magnificent colours and quality of light, there is a definite chill. Now, more than ever, it is important that the children are dressed warmly.

In addition to the necessity for warm and waterproof outdoor clothing and footwear, pupils need to remain warm indoors. As a school, we are required to keep classrooms ventilated with windows and often doors open. Even though the heating is on, children are increasingly requesting that they wear their coats during lessons to keep warm. As the days become colder, it may also be worth thinking about providing additional layers that can be worn underneath uniforms. It may be that we look into providing Barrow fleeces, at a reasonable price, to go over uniforms, in the near future. In the meantime, please provide sufficient clothing for your child/children to remain warm and dry both inside and out as, where it is possible, beneficial and appropriate, learning will continue to take place outdoors.

Particularly for parents/carers of our younger pupils, the staff and I are well-aware of the difficulties you face when picking up your child to discover that they have left their belongings in school. This wouldn't have been so much of a problem in the past as you would have probably gone in to school to look for these items yourselves at the end of the day. However, with that no longer possible, we ask that you ensure all items, clothing, bags and bottles, are clearly named and continue to have patience with staff who spend a considerable amount of time searching for them. Through reasonable expectations and further practice, the children will gain independence and become better at remembering these things themselves – we hope!

Attached is a NHS Test and Trace letter to parents and guardians. If you have downloaded the new NHS Test and Trace App, please be aware that there is an official QR code at the school gate enabling you to use your phone to check in should you have an appointment which requires meeting with a member of staff on the school site.

We are currently in the process of updating the School Calendar.

Sadly, Harvest Festival will not be able to be celebrated in church this year. However, pupils will receive Harvest assemblies in their bubbles.

We are expecting that Christmas parties and celebrations go ahead in December with children having fun in their classes (bubbles). Dates will follow.

Although the usual Autumn Term Open afternoon/evening to discuss how your child has settled into their new year group will not take place this year, parents/carers who wish to speak to their child's teacher will be able to do so at an arranged time, either by phone or virtually. We will provide you with further information about this after half-term. We value the positive and open relationships we have with parents/carers in our school so please feel assured that we would contact you if we felt there were any issues.

This Thursday 1st October is the Autumn School Census. The money the school receives from the Government to pay for the Infant schools meals is based on an average of the number of meals taken on the census days in October and January. It would really help us if your child was to have a school meal on this day. To encourage children to join us for school lunch, Mrs Richardson is cooking the children's favourites pizza, chips and ice cream for dessert.

Bikeability training for pupils in Years 5 and 6 will be going ahead on Friday 16th October. If you have a child in these year groups, please see the attached letter.

Dave Liddle, the school photographer, will be in school on Monday 5th October to take individual photographs. Unfortunately, sibling group photographs will not be able to happen this year due to the logistics of keeping bubbles separate.

Thank you for keeping children who are poorly at home. Because of these efforts, there was a drop in pupil illness across school last week with full attendance on Friday. Even though, in the past, pupils – and staff - may have attended school feeling unwell, this should not happen during these times. I fully understand the inconvenience this can cause, particularly to those of you who work. By keeping children who are ill at home, I know that other parents/carers are grateful to you. Should anyone experience difficulties at work, I am happy to contact employers to explain the situation if it would help.

We are excited about our move to Parent Pay and Angie will be in touch with instructions for a seamless transition.

Wishing you all a good week. Keep safe and warm!

Yours sincerely

Sian Stephenson

(Headteacher)