

Wednesday 26th May 2021

Here we are heading rapidly towards half term; it's hard to believe that it's the summer term with the awful weather we're having but, hopefully, some sunshine is on its way!

Parents' consultation calls - thank you



Once again we have had to hold parent/teacher discussions by telephone as our usual parents evening were not allowed in school. Thank you for taking the time to speak with your child's teacher and I hope the discussions were both informative and reassuring.

Feedback from some parents I have spoken to indicated that they were happy with holding meetings in this way as it was less time consuming than visiting school and less disruptive to their home life. That said, it is always good to meet face to face so that teachers and parents can put a face to a name and get to know each other a little.

Celebrations

There has been a lot to celebrate or be pleased with this term so far. Here are just a few:



- Now that children are back in school full time we are seeing pleasing progress.
- Children are taking part in a wider range of more 'normal' school based activities (e.g. swimming, quiche making) and teachers are working hard to make learning relevant and engaging.
- Some before and after school clubs have restarted, albeit cautiously and in year group bubbles.
- The residential visit for the children who will be in year 6 next year is going ahead.
- The vast majority of pupils are behaving well and enjoying learning and having fun playtimes with their friends.

Move-up day – Thursday 1st July

All being well, we have planned for the children to spend the majority of the day with the teacher they will have next year. This is the day when our year 6s will be at Driffield School so it is a sensible day for this to happen and will help the children to start getting to know their future teacher (and vice versa).

I will contact you again after half term regarding class organisation/arrangements as we are still finalising plans.

Summer term activities

Frustratingly, Covid restrictions are still impacting on what we can/can't do in school, even though things have been eased a little outside of school.



Unlike in 2020, this year we are able to go ahead with our individual year group sports days but, unfortunately, these will be in-house events with no spectators. They will be held week beginning 14th June (weather permitting) and children will compete in a range of activities, including some traditional races. There will be a good balance of competitive and non-competitive activities for children to participate in and I know it'll be a really fun day for them. We will take plenty of photos to add to the gallery on the app/website.

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit at school that week and that they also have a water bottle in school, a hat and sun-cream (I'm ever hopeful that good weather is on its way!). Thanks.

Leavers assembly is normally on the Thursday before we finish for the term, and parents come and join us in the hall. Last year this couldn't happen but we still ensured that the children had a fantastic final assembly and it was shared virtually with families.

This year we will be holding our Leavers' Assembly on the Friday (the day school finishes) because Driffield Show is being held (exceptionally) on the Wednesday and Thursday, so some children will be absent to attend the show. The assembly will follow the same format as last year and further details about how parents can access it will be sent nearer the time.

Sadly, we are unable to invite parents in to watch this event and any other events. Whilst some schools may be able to have a small number of parents on their site (after 21st June), due to the size of our school and our year groups, for us it would mean huge numbers of adults which is not only extremely difficult to manage (Covid restriction wise) it is still not advisable. We have done so well in terms of managing Covid in school and in the locality but we are not out of the woods yet; we must continue to be sensible and

vigilant in the hope that this will allow us to be back to 'normal' in September.

Children on bikes and scooters



We have had a small number of complaints about children riding their bikes and scooters inappropriately as they leave school and head home. They are sometimes unaware that their presence on the pavements causes difficulties for pedestrians. We have given them reminders but it'd be helpful if parents would back up this message at home. Thanks.



Worryingly, a member of staff witnessed some of our older children riding their scooters on the road down Exchange Street yesterday which is extremely dangerous. Please, if your child is a scooter user who goes home without a parent, take the time to discuss the dangers associated with this. My real fear is that a child comes to serious harm because they have not been sensible on their bike/scooter. Let's do our best to avoid this!

Uniform

We are noticing that a few children are deviating from our stated uniform policy. We still have a whole half term of school to go so it's important that children wear the correct clothing and get used to abiding by 'rules', especially those who will soon be heading to secondary education.

Jewellery/nail varnish

Similar to above, we have seen a few children wearing bits of jewellery and nail varnish, both of which are not permitted in school. The only jewellery allowed is small stud earrings that need removing or covering for PE lessons, and a watch is also allowed (not a smart watch or similar please).

We will be monitoring this after half term and will ask that children wearing jewellery remove it for safe keeping until home time.

Reminder

It is a teacher training day on Friday 28th May so **children break up tomorrow**, at the usual time, and return after half term on Monday 7th June.

In case you're thinking ahead to the summer holidays, we break up on Friday 23rd July.

Covid notifications over half term

If your child develops Covid symptoms from Friday 28th to Sunday 30th May, please isolate them and your

immediate family, and ensure they receive a PCR test. In this instance, please let me know by sending an email to: driffield.juniors@eastriding.gov.uk I will be checking this address twice daily and will get back to anyone who emails me as soon as I can.

If your child gets symptoms from 31st May onwards, I do not need to be informed because there are no implications in relation to school. Simply follow the advice above and adhere to Government guidelines.

And finally...

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support for the school and your understanding during what has been a very long and challenging time.

On behalf of us all at DJS, I wish everyone an enjoyable half term break.

L J Laird

Headteacher