

14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter is a little later than planned due to our inspection on Tuesday, which was exactly the same date as the previous one five years ago! The outcome is confidential at the moment, but I have been told that I should receive the report around the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

Thank you to everyone who completed the on-line questionnaire (Parentview), which was very positive. I notice however that some parents are not sure about how we deal with bullying and we will give you more information during anti – bullying week in November.

### **New starters**

We are delighted to have been oversubscribed this year, which means that our reception classes are full and we are also pleased to see some children transferring from our pre-school class to reception. Welcome back too to some younger children returning to Seahorse class. If there is anything you wish to discuss or are uncertain about please ask in the office and someone will help you or refer you to a member of staff who can deal with your enquiry.

Mr Potter and I will be conducting tours for prospective parents next month, so please let your friends and neighbours know. Tours will take place on Wednesday mornings from 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 until 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 9.15 am. Parents can do a complete tour of both sites or just view Merrywood. Anyone interested will need to book a place with the Merrywood Office 0117 3772671.

We also have some spaces in our current Year 1 and 2 classes and other year groups.

### **Beginning of the day**

My sincere thanks to parents and carers who are dropping children off at both sites or have made alternative arrangements following the decision to stop the school walking bus. As planned there is a member of staff available at Merrywood in the music room at 8.35am and also at Myrtle from the same time in the reception foyer for those parents who need a little more time to make the journey to the other site. To qualify you need to have a child on both sites.

Please note that if you are dropping off your child at Myrtle and leaving them at 8.40am when the gates open that they must go into the MUGA. They are not allowed to leave the site once you have left, even if you are just outside the gates. They should speak to the adult on duty if there is a problem.

### **Food**

We are really looking forward to starting our school meals catering in house after the half term break and we hope that our new menus will encourage more children to have school dinners.

**IF YOUR CHILD BRINGS A HEALTHY SNACK OR PACKED LUNCH TO SCHOOL PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE NUTS/PRODUCTS CONTAINING NUTS OR SESAME SEEDS** as we have a number of children with severe allergies to these foods in school.

### **Scooters, bikes and playground equipment**

Please would you make sure that your child does not ride a scooter or bike in the school playgrounds unless they are taking part in a staff supervised activity on Free Wheel Fridays. The reason for this is that the playgrounds are crowded and there have been a few near misses in the past.

I know how tempting the climbing equipment is to children, however we ask that in the interests of safety and the school's responsibilities, you do not let your child climb on equipment on either site before or after school.

### **The year ahead**

We would like to improve our communications with parents and carers this year in a more manageable way. We are aiming to send out Parentmails on a Wednesday and Friday so that we put all messages into one mail and you do not receive so many.

The calendar on our website, which currently has term dates, in-service days and a few other activities will be updated on a regular basis through the year.

I will also draw your attention to the class pages in the Learning Zone on our website. These pages have information about what your child's class is doing as well as information you might need to support their learning at home. There are often activities for the children to do too, either with their family or on the computer, which are relevant to the learning they do in school. Your child will also benefit if you read stories to him/her at home as well as letting him/her read to you.

We will be running some workshops for parents as we have in the past so that you know how we teach certain subjects such as phonics, maths and writing.

You will be invited into class at the end of the day on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of October so that your child can show you the work that he or she has been doing. Parents Evenings are planned for the week after and further information about booking an appointment will be sent out at a later date.

### **Attendance**

Our attendance at the end of last year was 96.4%, which was good but it has been better than this in the past and our target for this year is likely to be higher than this. Please note that absences in term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. You need to complete a yellow form from the school office if you have a request to make. It is important that your child comes into school unless they are really too ill to attend (it is still a requirement for them to stay away for 48hours after the last episode if they have vomiting and/or diarrhoea)

### **School Governors**

We are lucky to have School Governors, who are really keen to make sure that all children are happy, safe and make good progress in school. They meet three times a term, come in to school to meet with staff and pupils in and out of lessons, help with recruitment, meet with school inspectors and advisors and are committed to continuous school improvement. We will give you further information about who they are and how you can contact them soon. Their names are on the school website and photos will be added shortly, however if you speak to the staff in the office they can always get a message to them. My thanks to all of them for their time, help and support in the running of the school.

**Reminder PTA Welcome picnic for families of reception and pre-school children at Merrywood 3-5pm Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept AND First Aid Course (Free) for KS1 parents 1-3pm at Myrtle Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September** – please book with the school office – places still available.

### **Finally**

Thank you everyone, it has been a great start to the new academic year; lots of energy, enthusiasm and a really good atmosphere on both sites – may it continue!

Best wishes

Sandie Smith (Headteacher)