



Key Dates

Term Dates 18/19

Term 1

Tuesday 4th September
until

Friday 19th October

Term 2

Tuesday 30th October
until

Tuesday 18th December

Term 3

Thursday 3rd January
until

Friday 15th February

Term 4

Tuesday 26th February
until

Friday 5th April

Term 5

Tuesday 23rd April
until

Friday 24th May

Term 6

Tuesday 4th June
until

Tuesday 23rd July

Headline

Welcome to the new school year! We've had a great start already (as ever) and our children have picked up their learning as if they've never been away!

A huge welcome to anyone new that has joined us this week. We have a number of new families and some new staff members too:

- Ms Oravcova has joined the Foundation Stage 2 team for her School Direct Teacher Training programme

- Miss Lynch is starting her teaching career with us as the teacher in Sycamore Class (FS2)

- Miss Riches is joining us as the new Teaching Assistant in LKS2

- Mrs Bradshaw has joined the Inclusion and Pastoral team and is working in our new learning 'Hub' with Ms Burra

- Mrs Kirby is covering Miss Longhurst's maternity leave and is now the Teaching Assistant in UKS2 as Mrs Evans has moved down to work with KS1.

As you know, we are passionate about safeguarding in school. Over the summer holiday the Government made some changes to the key documents that guide our child protection work. These are called 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and 'Working Together to Safeguard Children.' The main updates focus on improved partnership working between Local Authorities, Health and Police and a greater understanding about local and national concerns. As a school we are an important partner agency and really good and prompt communication is vital. Rest assured, we have very strong relationships with the local Early Help and Social Care teams, the Police (including our own MOD Police Officer Mrs Helen Binning) and Health partners. We also work closely with the Attendance Advisory

team at Medway Council. Our policies and procedures in school are robust and are monitored and audited by our Governors, our CEO, external consultants and Medway Council. We have adopted the Medway Council Safeguarding policy, which will be updated very soon to reflect the changes to documentation.

Thank you for reading this newsletter. If you need a paper copy of the newsletter, please just ask at the front office (even if you received one last term!) Otherwise you can read it via the text we send you every week, or direct from the website. We also post a copy of the newsletter near to every classroom / area entrance and there is also one on the front door. If you can think of ways to make the newsletter more interesting or if there are regular items you would like to be included please just tell us!

News

Calling all green-fingered parents/grandparents!

Would you like the opportunity to pass on your experience and expertise to the next generation in a weekly after-school gardening club? We are looking for a team of skilled volunteers to help develop the vegetable growing areas in our outdoor classroom. Please contact the school office if you would like to help.



Years 3&4 painting

Uniform

A navy blue jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan for Years 1 - 6. Royal blue for FS1 and FS2 (Nursery and reception). Navy, black or grey trousers, tailored shorts, skirt or dress/navy and white checked dress. A white or blue polo shirt, shirt or blouse. Flat plain black shoes or trainers (no heels or open toes). Uniform can be

ordered from

www.tesco.com/ues

Key Staff

Mrs Mason *Headteacher*

Mrs Price *Deputy Head FS & KS1*

Mr Presneill *Deputy Head KS2*

Mrs White *Chair of Governors*

Mrs Prentice *SENCO*

Mrs Lewis *FS Leader*

Mrs Price *Y1 Leader*

Mrs Byrne *Y2 Leader*

Mrs Marie *LKS2 Leader*

Mr MacDonald *UKS2 Leader*

Mrs Liddle *Family Liason Officer*

07535 696125

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, achieving equal opportunities and combating discrimination.

We operate a very clear whistleblowing policy for staff.

News continued...

Families living in flats

We are also looking for families who live in flats (without gardens) who would like the opportunity to grow their own vegetables. Please contact the school office if you would like to attend an after-school club as a family to learn new skills and take home tasty produce you have grown yourself. (If you have your own garden but would like to join us, you are also welcome!)

Behaviour policy

As I have mentioned, the children have all arrived back in school bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. They are keen to remain 'zero heroes' in terms of our behaviour policy and earn some WOW text messages to start working towards their bronze awards again. All of the behaviour awards are re-set at the start of the year. Remember to ask your child for the specific reason why they have earned a WOW text message – they should know!

Reminders

Text messages

If you have changed your phone number over the summer, please inform the office so that we have the correct number for your text messages.

School meals

We operate a two day debt policy which means that you need to pay daily, weekly or termly for your child's meals. If they are subsequently absent from school for any reason, the money will be credited to your account. Children in FS2, Years 1 and 2 are given a free school meal from the government. However, children in years 3 - 6 pay £2.00 per meal per day. If you are in receipt of any benefits and think your child may be eligible for free school meals (in any year), please check the Medway Council website. It costs nothing to apply and you will receive an immediate response.

Belongings and lost property

Remember to name everything your child brings into school - including

water bottles and lunch boxes. You would be amazed how many sweatshirts get mislaid. Without a name, they are difficult to reunite with their owner! Lost property can be found in the cupboard in the reception area, but if the items are named they will be sent to your child's classroom. We have a selection of prescription glasses in lost property. Please come to the office if you think any may belong to your child. Any unclaimed glasses will be donated to charity on 21st September.

Health & Wellbeing

Headlice

If your child gets headlice, please make sure you inform their teacher and commence treatment straight away. As long as they are being treated, they can still come to school.

Sickness and diarrhoea

If your child has a tummy upset, please keep them at home for 24 hours after the last event.

In The Community

Will Adams Festival

Celebrate the life and legacy of Will Adams - the first-ever Englishman to **travel** to Japa. There will be lots to see and do, including Taiko Meantime Drumming, martial arts, living history and story telling. Saturday, 8 September, Gillingham Park, 11am-5pm

Pat On The Back

Every week, this section will include names and classes of children who have been asked to stand up in celebration assembly. This could be for good behaviour, extra effort or just because they have been particularly helpful all week and their teacher feels they deserve a special mention. Keep a look out for your child's name!

Also Coming Home

- Rugby for Years 3-6
- FS2 (Reception) Friday clubs letter
- Visitor to Year 2 letter