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Headteacher: Mrs. J. Payne

9th August 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we continue to plan for how we support the wellbeing of all children and ensure a positive start back to school, as outlined previously, Wednesday 4th September will be a staggered return for pupils. This approach is being taken following advice from a range of educational psychologists, and is designed to provide more opportunities for pupils to talk with their teacher in small groups and take part in therapeutic play, before we return to whole class teaching and learning.

All children will attend for a one-hour session in a small group (maximum of ten pupils per session) of their peers to spend time with their new class teacher. During the session, children will have the opportunity to talk together with their friends, talk to their teacher and engage in a range of creative activities. This approach will help ease the transition back into school life and provide a supportive environment for children, families and staff.

As this is the first day of the academic year, it is important that children come dressed in their school uniform for the session as this will also help with the transition back to school.

We want to ensure all children are able to attend the session, but we are also aware that there may be specific circumstances which may mean attendance is not possible. Please be assured that non-attendance on this day will not have a negative impact on your child's attendance record.

If you require childcare around the one hour session in school on Wednesday 4th September, our Butterflies Holiday Club will be open and can be booked for your child(ren) via the butterflies email butterflieswraparoundcare@churchtown.org.uk. For those pupils who are in receipt of free school meals, 'grab bag' lunches will be available to pick up from the school office.

We will be sending out more information next week on how to confirm which time slot you would like your child(ren) to attend. We are very keen to ensure that as many children attend as possible so we can support them as we all return to school. If you need any help or have any questions at the point of booking, please do not hesitate to contact via email at office@churchtown.org.uk. We are all here to help one another and support in any way we can.

This has clearly been a traumatic time for our whole school community, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support and understanding with how we feel it best to respond and support pupils. I appreciate that these revised arrangements may bring logistical challenges, but I want to reassure you that we have spent a lot of time thinking about the best way for us all to come back together for the start of term, and the approach we are taking to have children in school in smaller groups is based on professional advice and guidance.

Thank you again and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Payne
Headteacher



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