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1st September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year at The Rackham. We cannot wait to welcome back our pupils on Monday and greet our new intake and all parents and carers.

Safeguarding: Contact details:

Would you please ensure we have your most current contact details and any emergency contacts as well. Please update the office with any changes.

Start of the school day:

Our school day commences at 8.45am and finishes at 3.15pm. Children are invited to start coming into school from 8.30am to 8.45am. At 8.45am the gates will close, and late entry will be via the main reception area. Please find attached our Attendance Policy.

New uniform supplier:

We are delighted with the move to Sigma who are based at Sedgeway Business Park. We hope this will make it easier for parents and carers to check sizes as Sigma encourage visits to their site to try on before purchasing. The link to their website is here: [Clubs & Groups - Sigma Embroidery & Printing](#)

FWR will continue to run our pre-loved school uniform shop this term which is available to everyone who has children at The Rackham. If you have uniform that your child has grown out of, you are welcome to donate it. Any uniform that parents or carers choose from the shop can be purchased at a price that is affordable to you. We are very conscious of the current cost of living crisis so do please speak or email the office if you are unable to offer a monetary donation and would like some help with providing uniform for your child.

School dinners:

Please be aware that school dinners for years 3 – 6 are increasing in cost by 10p from £2.30 to £2.40 per day. Please ensure school dinners are booked in advance. If no advance booking has been made, children will receive a meal but a hot meal is not guaranteed.

Year group newsletters:

We have evaluated the impact of year group newsletters as a staff and concluded that the contents of the newsletters can be shared with parents in other ways. This decision has been arrived at as part of our ongoing pursuit to improve staff workload.

With relation to the dates that appear on the individual team newsletters, these will be part of my weekly newsletter. As far as images of what the children have been learning, each teacher is going to update parents directly on Tapestry.

We absolutely welcome your thoughts on this decision, do please email the office in the first instance with any feedback you may have.

Naming of personal items:

Please ensure your child's uniform and any other belongings, such as water bottles and packed lunch boxes, they bring into school are named. Please include inside of shoes. Stikins may prove helpful: [Clothes Name Labels. Stick On School Name Labels, Name Tags: Stikins®](#)

Lost property:

We now have a container in the main reception foyer where any lost property found around school will be put. Parents and carers will be able to access the container throughout the school day. Items in the container will be removed each half term.

Meet the teacher:

We would like to invite you to our Meet the Teacher Open Mornings week commencing 11th September. Our usual booking system will apply and for these events there will be two tickets per child.

The Meet the Teacher sessions will start in the hall with a cup of tea or coffee at 8.30am. This will be followed by a presentation by the year group Team Leader from 8.45 - 9am. The Team Leader will share the curriculum planned for pupils for this half term. Parents and carers will then be invited to join their child in the classroom from 9 – 9.30am. Departure of parents and carers from classrooms at 9.30am.

| Year Group | Date | Link to book places (2 per child) |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Year 1 and 2 | Tuesday 12.09.2023 | |
| Year 3 and 4 | Wednesday 13.09.2023 | |
| Year 5 and 6 | Thursday 14.09.2023 | |

Piano lessons:

We are delighted to announce that we have the opportunity to offer once again, piano lessons in school time. Before we can progress and confirm we need to understand fully how many parents would be keen for their child to take part. Parents will sign up for a term of lessons, each 30 minutes long. The cost will be dependent on the number of children involved and will be around £25 per lesson. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best wishes,



Miss Turner
Headteacher

| Dates for your diary | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 04.09.2023 | Children return to school |
| 04.09.2023 | Baseline Assessments begin for Reception children |
| WC 11.09.2023 | Meet the Teacher morning for parents and carers |
| 15.09.2023 | Individual photographs |
| 21.09.2023 | Open Evening for Year 6 Witchford Village College |
| 26.09.2023 | FWR AGM in the school hall 7.30pm start |
| 16 – 20.10.2023 | Ravenstor residential Year 6 all week |
| 20.10.2023 | Last school day of half term |
| Half term | |
| 30.10.2023 | Children return to school |
| WC 06.11.2023 | Parent's Evening this week dates TBC |
| 11.12.2023 | Flu vaccination day whole school |
| 19.12.2023 | Last school day for children before the Christmas holidays commence |
| 20.12.2023 | Professional Development Day for staff |
| 21.12.2023 | Christmas holiday commences for staff |
| Christmas Holiday | |
| 04.01.2024 | Professional Development Day for staff |
| 05.01.2024 | Professional Development Day for staff |
| 08.01.2024 | Children return to school |