

Care, Collaboration, Challenge

Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parent

Catch Up Funding

I am sure that you have read in the news that the government has put an additional £650 million into the education budget to support catch up. This catch up funding equates to £80 per child, to be spent supporting all children as they return to school. You can read more details on our website, linked below, on how we propose to spend the extra funding.

https://springfieldprimaryacademy.net/important-information/catch-up-funding

As part of our catch up funding, I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Marshall will be returning to Year 5 to support the teaching in Years 5 and 6. The additional funding means that we can move back to two Year 5 classes and two Year 6 classes, for the mornings only, for the rest of the year. This means that the children will be taught English and Maths in smaller classes in the mornings and then move back to three classes in the afternoons for project work, PE, and the wider curriculum. This will be a fantastic opportunity to support the Year 5 and 6 children in their catch up.

Attendance

After such a long time off for many of our children, there was a real concern that attendance would be lower than normal. I am delighted to inform you that this has not been the case. Currently, our average school attendance is 97%. That will change, I am sure, as we go through the winter months. However, it is a very positive start.

School Photographs

Individual photos will be taken on **Friday 9th October**. Please ensure that your child has a cardigan or sweatshirt on the day. Unfortunately this year, we will not be able to have photographs taken of sibling groups, due to the amount of time this would take, whilst ensuring that we can organise the day safely. If your child does not normally attend nursery on this day, then they may attend for the morning session.

Cold/Wet Weather

A number of children have arrived in school over the past few days without a coat. Please ensure that your child has a suitable coat with them during the day, as they will have playtimes outside, even when it is cold!

School Website

Please check out our school website at <u>https://springfieldprimaryacademy.net/</u> You can find information about term dates, our curriculum, school meals, amongst many other things. Each team also has a blog, so that you can catch up on what your child has been doing each week. We have also added a new page under the Letters section, containing downloadable forms for school milk, leave of absence, changes to contact details and nursery applications. There is also a guide to ParentPay.

Lunches

A number of parents of Key Stage 2 children have been booking meals on ParentPay and then sending their child to school with a packed lunch. Please be aware that if you have booked a meal and your child is in school, you will be charged for that meal.

After School Clubs

At present, there are no plans to re-start our after school activity clubs, due to the on-going pandemic. We will keep you informed and let you know as soon as this changes.

Home Learning

If your child has to self-isolate, we will provide work for them, through Class Dojo, our online learning platform. We are able to upload work and then your child will be able to post work on Class Dojo for their teacher to mark and give feedback. It is imperative that your child is able to have access to this. We will be using it for all of our children – for sending home spellings, for example, so that they get used to using it. If you are having problems logging on, please contact your child's class teacher.

If your child is ill, then obviously there is no expectation that they work at home.

Breakfast and After School Club

Both breakfast and after school club are operating, as normal, from 7.45am until 9am and from 3.30pm until 5.30pm. Due to the strict guidelines in managing this provision during the pandemic, sessions must be booked and paid for in advance. We will not be able to accept any child that has not had a place booked for them. All bookings must be made through Parent Pay, at least 72 hours in advance. If you are having problems booking a place for your child, please contact the school office.

Yours faithfully

A. Willett