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September 2024

We are delighted to welcome all our pupils back to school this week and extend a warm welcome to the families of our new starters. The children are all settling in to their new classes well and making a very positive first impression. Enclosed below is information and reminders that may be useful to you throughout the year including school holiday dates. Please keep the letter safe to refer to.

Reminders

Pick up and drop offs

Registration for all pupils is between 8.35am and 8.45am. Your child needs to be in class by 8.45am to begin their learning – every minute counts!

School finishes at 3.15pm. Please collect your child promptly. Please park carefully avoiding the double yellow lines and considering the local residents.

Before and after school care is available for all learners at a cost of £3 per session. This needs to be paid using parent-pay and needs to be booked a week in advance to ensure the school has enough staff for the amount of pupils in the clubs.

Letters will be sent home regarding extra-curricular clubs at different times during the year. Once signing up for a club children are expected to attend every week.

Lunches and snacks

School meals are available at a cost £2.50 Please talk to the school office if you believe you may be eligible for free school meals.

The children are able to bring a piece of fruit to school for a morning snack. No other snacks please.

We want to be a school which promotes healthy choices and healthy eating and protects children's teeth, so we will not be giving out sweets as treats or rewards regularly.

We would also ask you not to send in any birthday cakes or sweets into school. We have a number of children with food intolerances, allergies and medical conditions which mean that they cannot share in these and can feel excluded. Not all parents want their children to have sweets so we hope you understand our reasons behind this.

If you want to mark your child's birthday in school, you could always buy a book for the class library with your child's name in to celebrate the occasion.

Children who come to school with a packed lunch should make healthy lunch choices. Chocolate bars, crisps, fizzy and energy drinks and sweets should not be included in a packed lunch.

Medicines

If your child has asthma, please send in an up-to-date inhaler and complete a medical form available from the office. On occasions the school can administer medicine to pupils if this is prescribed by a doctor. Please complete the form in the school office.

Physical Education

Ensure all items of uniform and PE kit are clearly labelled with your child's name. Trainers should not be worn to school unless it is a PE day. Jewellery should also not be worn with the exception of stud earrings but these must be removed for PE.

Extended leave

Unfortunately, holidays in term time cannot be authorised. The school is closed for 13 weeks of the year. Please ensure that all holidays are booked within these weeks.

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence in term time. These changes will come into effect on 19 August 2024.

The changes to be aware of are:

- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.
- The threshold at which a penalty notice must be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10- school week period¹. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).
- Only penalty notices issued for absences taking place after 19 August 2024 will count towards the above thresholds.

PE Days (Children to come to school in their kits on this day.)

Reception Class - Wednesday and Friday

Year 1 – Tuesday

Year 2 – Friday

Year 3 – Wednesday

Year 4 – Monday

Year 5 – Tuesday and Thursday

Year 6 – Thursday

Homework

Your class teacher will let you know the expectations for homework on their class pages on the website. Please ensure you read with your child regularly even if they are in the upper school.

Holiday Dates 2024-2025

Autumn Term 2024

Inset Day: Monday 2 September 2024

Starts: Tuesday 3 September 2024

Inset Day Friday 18 October 2024

Half term: Monday 21 October - Friday 25 October 2024

Ends: Friday 20 December 2024

Spring Term 2025

Starts: Monday 6 January 2025

Half term: Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February 2025

Inset Day: Monday 24 February 2025

Inset Day: Monday 31 March 2025

Ends: Friday 4 April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Starts: Tuesday 22 April 2025

May Day: Monday 5 May 2025

Half term: Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May 2025

Inset Day: Friday 6 June

Ends: Tuesday 22 July 2025