

Monday 7th September

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been wonderful getting back to some kind of normal and seeing the children in school. They have impressed me so much with their positive attitudes and calm approach to school.

We continue to live in uncertain times and thus are bound by some new ways of working. We will constantly assess the situation and make small changes where necessary but once again I ask for your patience. Pick up and drop off times are difficult to manage for some families but it assists us greatly with the measures we have to put in place.

This term would normally very busy with welcome meetings, assemblies, masses and other events. However, as you can see from the dates on the website it is looking very different. The teachers will not be holding welcome meetings but they will prepare and send out packs this week and next to inform you of class procedures etc.

Another difference will be homework. Moving forward no homework will be sent home, it will all be set up on Google Classroom. This week the children will be given email addresses and from next week homework will start to be set. Homework is voluntary and teachers will not follow up on the work or those who have not completed it. Google Classroom can be accessed from all devices, including phones; however if you have a technical issue and cannot access it please let me know.

Reading books will continue to be sent home with some changes. Children will receive a book on a Monday and return it on Thursday so the books can 'quarantine' over the weekend. There can be no exceptions on the rule.

Symptoms

If your child develops any Covid-19 symptoms....

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

....they and all in the household must self-isolate until a test result is received.

If we have a positive test result in school the whole class must self-isolate. If and when this happens I will contact the class separately. Please engage with this and track and trace to keep all our community safe.

As you can see from the dates on the website I will be holding a 'Zoom' PTA/Friends Meeting on Monday 24th September at 10am. Even though we cannot have events in person I look forward to hearing your creative ideas for 'virtual' fundraising. A code will be shared the week of the meeting.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in these most difficult and strange times.

Yours sincerely

M Mountcastle