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***Updating procedures...READING and PE!***

Dear Parents and Carers,

First up...we apologise...we originally planned to get this letter out last week – the days are full at the moment!

As we’ve mentioned before, our risk assessment in school needs to be dynamic and change as we find out what works and what needs a rethink. There are one or two changes that we aim to implement from this week (or next if that’s easier for you) that we’d like to mention now. As you’ll be becoming accustomed to, this is not a short letter! ;-) (But is very important!).

***PE Kits***

As we move into the autumn and winter we need to consider whether it is feasible or suitable for our children to wear school clothes for PE. Furthermore, because there has been a greater focus on individual physical education, including aerobic, strength and flexibility activities, etc, school clothes aren’t necessarily the most appropriate attire. **Therefore, we have made the decision that on the days that your children are doing PE, they come to school in their PE kits. We’ll start this ‘officially’ from next week but won’t hold it against you if they wear it this week!** This does not mean they can come in bright colours etc, but must stick to the PE clothing as set out in our uniform policy; they should wear a white or red polo shirt, black or grey shorts and black trainers. We would also recommend that the children come to school in a red sweatshirt and black or grey tracksuit bottoms (or leggings) if possible...it’s getting colder! If your child attends an after school club, the same applies.

***Books, Reading Records and Book Bags***

Our teachers and teaching assistants have been gauging our children’s reading fluency and understanding following such a long period away from school and will be sending home reading books very soon (some of you may have had them already). Under current circumstances, systems will be in place depending on the year group, so that books that are returned from home are ‘quarantined’, along with reading record booklets, for 72 hours before being sent out again. ***We are aiming to send books home on Thursdays to come in on Mondays wherever possible, unless the class teacher lets you know otherwise.***

This all means children are bringing in reading books, reading records, a water bottle, perhaps a packed lunch and even some of the work they have done at school on occasion. It would of course be silly to request that they hold all of these things without a bag! **Because of storage limitations, we do not want children to bring their own bags but request that they bring in a book bag for these items. Book bags are available from the school office for £4.**

Whilst we are on reading, please be reminded that we expect entries in reading records at least four times a week if possible, stating what books/pages have been read and a little note about how it went. We are not placing huge emphasis on homework other than with core learning, and reading is the most important of all. We greatly appreciate your support in reading with your child, encouraging them as much as possible and supporting them in developing a love of reading and an eagerness to develop their reading skills. Higher up the school, as well as monitoring reading habits, we also want to maintain that love of reading and so personal choice of what they read becomes even more important. Your child should become aware if they are a free reader and no longer use our scheme. Please feel free to communicate with staff about free reading.

***Can we take this opportunity to request again that if you have any reading books at home, that we sent out in good faith during lockdown, they are returned to school immediately. As you’ll be aware there was a significant investment in these books and it is disappointing that we still have so many yet to be returned. Please have a good look and ask your children as it is an outlay we do not want to make again, if at all possible, and it may also mean a possible delay in some of our children receiving books home, which then impacts on their learning.***

BUG CLUB ONLINE

Due to the above, we would like you to use Bug Club online as much as you possibly can. The challenges of quarantining and exchanging books, etc will be greatly diminished if we have more of you that use the online books, which are largely the same as the hard copies. Books will be allocated online by staff. If you do not need hard copies please, PLEASE, let us know as this will make our procedures considerably easier. Furthermore, due to the fact that we will be quarantining books at school, you’ll need access to Bug Club online for the days in which your child is not sent home a book. We will still expect comments in reading records for books read online. The first book will be a hard copy but in the meantime, please could you complete our very brief survey if you haven’t done so already, (with your child’s name) as quickly as possible so that we can fine-tune our procedures. The links are here...

Year 6

<https://s.surveyplanet.com/kGFYWGcXW>

Year 5

<https://s.surveyplanet.com/lO_jRl5VB>

Year 4

<https://s.surveyplanet.com/NaR8SGPdM>

Year 3

<https://s.surveyplanet.com/FssosuiTJ>

Year 2

<https://s.surveyplanet.com/zCaGxRYiS>

Year 1

<https://s.surveyplanet.com/Y1rNzzcy2>

Reception

<https://s.surveyplanet.com/yA-wFuEO1>

**Social distancing and safety update**

We are doing all we can at school to keep our environment as safe and happy as possible for our children and staff. The children are being extremely sensible in adhering to new hygiene routines and staff are working harder than they ever have done in managing these expectations whilst supporting and challenging the children academically, emotionally and socially. We greatly appreciate your support and understanding in following the requests that we have made when dropping off and picking up your children. Can we remind you that **the trim trail should not be used before or after school** as we cannot monitor the safety and cleanliness of this, and can you also ensure, **if picking up from Nursery, that the equipment isn’t used there.** A lot of work goes in to ensuring we follow safe practice in the current climate and so we all need to follow this guidance.

For your information, we are currently reviewing our dinner routine with a view to some changes after half term. We’ll keep you posted.

A small thing but also, at the moment we are not allowing children to bring in sweets, cakes, etc for birthdays. Sad, we know, but we need to be careful.

One final thing...it may be the case that in certain situations, teaching staff may wear visors when delivering one-to-one or small group support. This depends on the learning space and where necessary discussions will be had with the children about this.

We realise things are difficult and some of our measures may be questioned. But we remain extremely positive that we are doing the best for your children and will continue to do so throughout all this nasty business!

As always, talk to us if you have any queries or concerns.

All the best,

***Simon Parker and Mark Doherty***

Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher