



What a busy start to the new academic year!

**Welcome to all our new starters** – they have all been great! And I am blown away by the levels of independence even in our youngest children.

Our newly appointed staff have quickly become members of 'Team Yarm' and we are thrilled to be continuing to work with our extended family within the Trust.

We have already met with **FoYPS**, who have committed to supporting All our children in our plans for our curriculum enrichment work for this term and beyond! Please look out for their events and support them in any way you can. The Tuck Shop was a new initiative, and as it develops will be a means for our Y6 cohort to experience a little entrepreneurship! They are sponsoring a KS2 event on Monday – but I can't let the cat out of the bag – ask the children on Monday AND look out for some spooky posters! THANK YOU AGAIN FoYPS.

Congratulations to our newly elected **Head Girl & Head Boy – Harriet & Noah**. They have already been on a learning walk – their observations were extremely insightful and supported at the EY tea party – great additions to the team! ALSO, a big well done to those children who put themselves forward for the posts and on this occasion weren't successful – I am very proud of their ambition and bravery.

We will be contacting you shortly to arrange **parents evening** – at this time of year this is a 'settling in' conversation and as such meetings are scheduled for 5 mins. If you feel you will require a more in-depth conversation please speak to your child's teacher. Of course, If you have any concerns or queries prior to this please do not hesitate to contact staff through the office.

I am thrilled that we have already been 'out and about' – the woods, swimming, the coast – and that we have been able to secure the arrangements for our **residential programme** – if you were not able to pop along to last weeks meeting or have missed the follow up emails please get in touch so we can 'fill you in.'

Next week is **Cycle to School Week** and we have our fingers crossed for a dry week! Children will sign up each day if they have cycled/scooted to school and will be celebrated at the end of the week. Thank you for your support. We have been adding to our programme several national/international commemoration days so children are having a little 'taster' into things which are not their main themes – these are then picked up via quizzing and our deepening knowledge initiative. International Dot day, Deaf awareness week. First aid week, Roald Dahl story day and as you may know Porridge day is coming up! National Poetry day is next week and we will be reflecting this in our English work...

In line with National & regional protocols our **attendance** policy has always promoted that children who miss school for anything other than sickness are being disadvantaged. The exceptional circumstances by which holiday in term time can be authorised seemed to become a little 'sketchy' following lockdown, but as we are now so far removed from this period – thank goodness – we must now ensure we are applying our policy.

*As a reminder - Pupils will not be granted authorised absence for holidays during term time unless there is an exceptional circumstance (see definition section 4.1) Unless authorised due*

to an exceptional circumstance, any holidays taken will be unauthorised and parents/ carers may be subject to legal sanctions.

4.2 Legal sanctions - Schools can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age. If issued with a penalty notice, parents must pay £60 within 21 days or £120 within 28 days; per parent, per child. The payment must be made directly to the local authority. The decision on whether or not to issue a penalty notice ultimately rests with the Principal, following the local authority's code of conduct for issuing penalty notices.

This may take into account:

A number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year

One-off instances of irregular attendance, such as holidays taken in term time without permission

Where an excluded pupil is found in a public place during school hours without a justifiable reason

If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute the parent or withdraw the notice.

Clearly the vast majority of parents support this stance and I thank you for this.

If your child has periods of absence which require our support we will of course do all we can to support them back into school.

On a similar topic – we would like to remind you that providing sight of medical appointments helps us to keep our records accurate – Thank you.

Thank you to those parents and children who supported **MacMillan Coffee morning** and the brilliant Y5 helpers – we will let you know how much was raised shortly.

There is a lot to come this half term and before Christmas – I will send you a separate **calendar of events** so that you can refer to it as the time moves on!

I appreciate your support in making the start of term a successful one – the learning I see around school is fantastic! All testament to the children and their great behaviours for learning, the staff who have high expectations and commitment to them and the partnership with you.

Mrs Wood

