



2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely seeing the children back in school today, particularly the moment when we all came together for our whole school assembly in the hall – the first time in nearly two years!

Outlined below are some key reminders and information for the start of the start of the new academic year.

### **Whole School River Walk & Picnic**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September: 10.30am - 2.30pm

We will be walking all the children from Year 1 to Year 6 down to the river and you are welcome to join us. The children will need to bring a packed lunch on the day.

### **School Grounds Tidy Up**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September: 3.20 - 5.00pm

We will be holding a working party to help tidy up in and around the school grounds. *Many hands make light work* so if you can join us for some or all of the time, that would be fantastic.

Jobs that need doing include:

- Wheelbarrowing wood chippings from the front gate to the Early Years outdoor area
- Organising the large tractor tyres into a climbing area
- Landscaping the new pond area that the Year 6's dug
- Preparing a flower bed on the front playground
- Generally sweeping and tidying up around the playgrounds

If you are able to help, we will need you to come with wheelbarrows, spades, forks and/or outdoor brushes. Teas, coffees, juices and cakes will be provided by FOSS around 4.30pm to thank everyone for their hard work!

For both the River Walk and Tidy Up, the School Office will be sending out a Parentmail form so that you can indicate if you intend to come and/or help out, so that we have a good idea of how many parents will be joining us.

### **COVID Update**

In line with the current government guidance, we will no longer have class bubbles but will be ensuring good ventilation around the school, regular hand washing and thorough cleaning.

In the event of a child or member of staff getting COVID they will need to isolate for 10 days. The rest of the class and close contacts will be informed and are asked to get a PCR test as soon as possible. Once the child or member of staff has had their PCR test, they are to return to school. They are not to wait until the results of the test come back. This is in accordance with the guidelines and something we support so that children miss the minimal amount of face-to-face classroom teaching. *We are prepared for the fact that the first 24 hours will be a little disruptive as children come back in at different times, depending on when they have the test.* The class where there is a positive case will then 'lockdown as a bubble', in school, for the next 10 days.

### **Achievement Assembly**

We hope to be able to stream this LIVE to you via zoom from the school hall from Friday of next week. We are going to spend the next couple of assemblies working out how best to do this.

### **Pick up and Drop Off**

The classroom doors open at 8.45 and registers are taken at 8.55. Children arriving after this time will be marked as late. School finishes at 3.10pm. Parents are responsible for their children before and after these times. To promote resilience, independence and a calmer start to the day for all the children, parents are asked not to come into the corridors, cloakrooms and classrooms with their children. All children will be collected and dismissed from the classroom door or playground and taken into the classroom by a member of staff.

### **Packed Lunches**

Children in Dahl (Y4), Morpurgo (Y5) and Shakespeare (Y6) classes need to put their lunch box on the trolley outside the office at the start of the school day. Murphy, Donaldson and Blake children to take them into their

### **School Dinners**

School lunches are £2.35 per day and can be pre-ordered by parents at home or the children can choose the meal on the day at school. Parents need to have an account with Dolce Schools Catering company to order lunches. Ask at the office for a joining pack. Please ensure that your account is kept in credit at all times and that any outstanding payments are paid by the end of the week. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have their lunches funded by the governments Universal Free School Meals so do not need to.

### **Uniform**

All children must wear a school uniform:

- ❖ Royal Blue sweatshirt or cardigan with logo
  - ❖ White 'polo' t-shirt or shirt
  - ❖ Plain black, grey or navy trousers or shorts
  - ❖ Plain black, grey or navy skirt or blue and white checked dress
  - ❖ Plain black, grey, navy or white socks/tights
  - ❖ Sensible, flat heeled, dark shoes or sandals that protect & support the feet. Trainers, high boots and high heels are not acceptable
  - ❖ Black Sweatshirt for the Year 6 children only
- Order from: [www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk)

### **Snacks**

Murphy and Donaldson are provided with free fresh fruit. Children in Year 3 upwards are required to bring their own HEALTHY snack into school e.g. a piece of fruit or cereal bar. No chocolate bars or crisps at break time. If you are sending your young child in with grapes, please cut them in half.

### **Tuck Shop**

Tuck shop is open to the whole school and is held on Fridays during break-time. The cost is £5 a seasonal term starting 10/09/21.

### **After School Clubs**

We hope to start some after school clubs from the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> September. They will run for 10 sessions between 3.10-4.10pm. A letter will go out in the next week outlining the clubs available and the costs involved.

### **Vicky's After School Club**

We will not be running any clubs after school in Term 6. However, Vicky's After School Club will be running from Monday to Thursday 3.10-5.10pm. Please contact Vicky directly if you would like to book your child a place: 07887 711454 or [vickyhickman1@gmail.com](mailto:vickyhickman1@gmail.com).

### **Morning Club**

John Andrews Morning Club is also available to parents who need to drop off their child a little earlier in the morning. It runs from 7.45-8.45am. Please contact John directly if you would like to book your child a place: 07917 444498

## Communication

Parents are able to contact the class teachers in a number of ways: outside of the classroom at the start/end of day or leaving a phone message or sending an email via the office that can be passed on. We will endeavour to get back to you within 24 hours. Please do not use the class email or use google classroom messaging because these are no longer in use. All communications, including permission forms will come through ParentMail. Please make sure you are registered and contact the office if you need to set up an account.

### Social Media

Please use the communication channels outlined above to share any concerns you may have about the school. Doing so using social media can be hurtful, often fails to present a balanced account of the issue and is not a good way of resolving a problem.

### No nuts in school

We have a couple of children and staff with severe nut allergies so please do not send your children in with any food that contains nuts.

### Home Learning

This goes out on a Wednesday and needs to be returned on the Monday.

### ParentMail

We are a 'cashless payment' school. All payments (apart from lunches, that are through School Grid) need to be done online through ParentMail. Please contact the school if you do not have an account.

### Reading Diaries

All of the children have been given a new reading diary. We hope that you will find the diaries helpful as they give some tips on how to read with your child. We would like the children to be reading every day and for you to 'sign off' that they have read with you or independently. Children who reach reading milestones will receive a sticker and a mention in our assembly.

### Attendance

We expect children to be in school every day. If your child is sick please call the school office by 9am to let us know. We regularly monitor the children's attendance and parents will be notified if their attendance drops below 95%. We do not authorise holidays during term time but may grant compassionate or special leave in some circumstances. Any requests to take a child out of school during term time must go through the office.

### Parking

Please use the car park by the church rather than the main road or outside local houses. We often get phone calls from local residents upset about driveways being blocked or parking that prevents them from having a clear line of sight as they come out of their driveways.

### Free School Meals

You can get Free School Meals for your child if you or your partner gets either: Universal Credit, Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income of £16,190 or less, as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. If you think you might be entitled to free school meals please provide the office with your national insurance number and date of birth and we can check for you. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 and 2 they will be receiving the universal free school meals. However please still let the office know if you think you are entitled to free school meals because it will provide the school with additional funding.

