

Friday 22nd April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you all had a good break, your children certainly look healthy, happy and ready to learn. It has been lovely to hear about the things your children have been doing, they are always so keen to tell us. We have a very busy term ahead of us and dates were sent out at the end of last term. Please let us know if you require a copy.

We are aware that so many families have been unable to travel for a while and see family or go on a holiday, however we are receiving a large number of requests to take children out during term time. Whilst we are sympathetic we can only authorise absences for exceptional circumstances - these reasons include funerals, medical issues, school interviews etc. Unfortunately holidays do not meet this criteria and do not count as exceptional. Please avoid booking holidays during term time if you can, your children have suffered so much disruption to their schooling already.

Swimming

We are now busy preparing for swimming after a two year break, the pool is being prepared by our site team and is looking great. Swimming is not on the curriculum for Infant aged children therefore it is a wonderful extra and that is why we rely on a lot of parental support from every class to make it happen, as well as your voluntary donations. Unfortunately we will have to cancel sessions if we don't have enough help as safety is our over-riding priority and we must have enough adults to supervise every session. All adult helpers **must** have a valid DBS check to volunteer, please ask the School Office team and they will arrange your DBS check. Thank you to Laila (Albie's Mum) for organising the rota. **On Monday (25 April) at 9.00am** we will have a meeting in the hall for all parents to discuss swimming, please come along as we will be giving you useful practical information on how we run the sessions and what your child needs. Please find attached the two letters that were sent out before Easter giving full information about swimming, please read these carefully.

Parent meetings

Thank you to those of you who came to the Year 1 phonics meeting yesterday. These meetings are held to keep you informed about how you can help your child at home, it is also an opportunity for you to ask questions and find out a little more about what we are doing at school. We realise that the timings don't suit everyone but please try to attend if at all possible. Next week we will be sending out a survey with various questions, one of which will ask how you prefer to receive information and which times suit you best for parent meetings at school. Your feedback is very important to us as we aim to engage as many parents as possible in these sessions. **On Thursday 28th April at 2.15pm** we will host a Phonics meeting for Reception parents and carers - we hope to see many of you there.

Information on learning

Several parents have asked me for more information about what their children are learning at school, please take a look at our website. On there you will find a wealth of information about the school, including the planning for each year group. When you pick your child up and ask them what they have been doing and they say 'nothing' this may help! There are also lots of links to helpful learning sites and more general information about the school. We also post regularly on our school Twitter account, please take a look.

Covid and general illness

We continue to receive and respond to updated government guidance if children are unwell or receive a positive Covid test result (from a test kit that you may have already had at home). As you will be aware, PCR testing and the distribution of free Lateral Flow test kits has now been phased out so we will no longer ask you to arrange a Covid test for your child if they are unwell (tests are only available for certain people in particular healthcare roles or who are at risk or vulnerable). Instead, we ask you to do the following if your child is unwell:

- Children and young people with a positive Covid test result are advised to stay at home for 3 days after the day they took their test;
- Children and young people with **mild symptoms** such as a runny nose, sore throat or slight cough, **who are otherwise well**, should continue to attend school;
- Children and young people who are **unwell and have a high temperature** should stay at home and avoid contact with other people where they can. They can come back to school when they no longer have a high temperature and are well enough to attend.

Please be reminded that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they **must** stay home for 48 hours from their last bout. Please always call the School Office every day of your child's absence (unless advised otherwise), by 9.15am so that we can mark them out of the class register promptly. You can also email the School Office or leave a message on our answerphone outside School hours. Thank you.

Adventure playground after school

It is lovely to see so many of you enjoying the adventure playground after school, we are so lucky to have this resource. Just a reminder that it does need to be vacated at 3.45pm and all rubbish must be taken away with you. Thank you.

Grow a pound fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in and returned money for the Grow a pound fundraising activity over the Easter holiday. Please hand in all donations by Friday 29 April to the School Office or via your child's blue bag.

Cost of living challenges

We are aware that many families are going to find the rising cost of living a real challenge in the coming months. Please come and talk to me if you are struggling, we are able to signpost you to helpful services and we are a food bank voucher agency. All conversations will be treated with the strictest of confidence. Attached is a flyer for emergency mental health support.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding our young children is our priority and all staff are trained to keep children safe. However, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and if you are concerned about a child or young person please call Children's services on **0208 547 5008**.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Warm regards
Janet Berry