



Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome back to you all and hello to all our new parents, carers and pupils.

It has been lovely to see the children back in school over the last couple of weeks looking so happy and ready to learn. Thank you too for your work to ensure that they are all looking so smart in their new school uniforms and PE kits.

On Friday you will all have received a class newsletter from your child's teacher letting you know what they will be learning this term and how you can help at home. We are really excited about our curriculum this year; we hope your children will be too.

**Child Mental Health and Safeguarding** The impact of the pandemic and steps taken to control it have without doubt taken their toll on many of us – children and adults alike. In school we continue to support children through their PSHE lessons and provide support from Mrs Blakemore as required. This week I will be talking to the children in assembly about the importance of sharing their worries and talking to people they trust. We will also talk about how important it is to make sure other people know about things that we don't like or make us feel uncomfortable – this is more important than ever as nationally issues such as sexual harassment are discussed. Each class will agree a way of sharing any worries or concerns in a confidential way this may be a Worry Monster, Worry Box or other method agreed with the children. Any concerns raised are always dealt with in an age appropriate manner and school staff will ensure that you, as parents and carers are made aware of any concerns relating to your child.

**Reading** remains a key priority of the school. We strongly believe that confidence and a love of reading opens doors to lifelong learning. We want all our pupils to experience the joy of being lost in a book. To support this we have introduced early morning reading activities. Some of you will have received a letter inviting your child into school from 8.30am to work in a small group with a teaching assistant. These groups are small and unfortunately, we are not able to invite all children, but will rotate the groups throughout the year to ensure that as many children have this opportunity as possible. To make drop off more manageable for parents with more than one child in the school we will open the library for siblings of children attending these groups for independent reading.

## **COVID**

I wrote to you at the start of term outlining the control measures that we are continuing with in school and changes that we have made. Unfortunately, we are aware of several families within our school community who have contracted COVID and who are needing to isolate. We wish them all a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them again once their isolation period has finished.

Please could I ask that you continue to be vigilant for any symptoms including a fever, a new persistent cough or a loss of taste or smell. If you, or your child have symptoms you should remain at home and arrange for a PCR test as soon as possible. Please also contact the school to keep us informed of the situation.

The staff in school continue to **wear face coverings** to reduce transmission of viruses. All visitors to school are asked to wear a face covering in the building. We would be very grateful if you could continue to support us in this by wearing face coverings at the beginning and end of the day.

Thank you for continuing to support us with this.



## Start of the day

Our school day starts at 8.50am. To make the most of the learning time available we need all the children in class by 8.50am, we will therefore be closing the gate promptly at this time.

Sadly, I know that congestion around schools at the beginning and end of the day is a perennial problem around the country. I know that this leads to frustration and anxiety for us all.

We can work together to reduce congestion (and stress) by:

- Walking or cycling where you can
- Parking a bit further away from school and walking the last part
- Using breakfast club
- If invited bringing your child to 8.30am reading club (remember the library is open to siblings).

Tamsin Lamb

Headteacher

## Books of the Week

When thinking about reading we often forget poetry which is a real shame. The fun of the rhyme and attraction of shorter texts are often engaging for the less enthusiastic reader as well as those who are more confident.

Why not try dipping into a poem or two this weekend?

