

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now in the middle of the term and the staff and children have settled well into the routines of the school day. They have even managed to make handwashing more fun!

Teaching staff met last week to discuss the first few weeks back and what had gone well and what the challenges were. It was lovely to hear that the children in all classes seemed happy to be back and into a routine. They were enjoying being together and bonding as a class, with highlights being play and lunchtime. We are starting to plan events that can happen in a different way, under the current circumstances. These will include Harvest, Halloween and parent consultations this term and information will be shared via the newsletter and email.

ATTENDANCE

Our school target this year is 96.5%. Please can you make sure that your child is in school for 9.00 a.m. as a late registration affects their classes' attendance figures. Thank you

| | Week 2 | Week 3 |
|--------|--------|--------|
| Cherry | 90.63% | 89.92% |
| Beech | 88.40% | 83.87% |
| Holly | 85.99% | 83.83% |

GOLDEN BOOK

w/c 14th September

Holly The whole class for settling into Holly class so well and being so helpful and well behaved

Beech To everyone in Beech Class for their hard work and enthusiasm on their return  to school

Cherry All the Pips for settling in so well to Cherry class and the rest of the class for helping them to settle in

w/c 21st September

Holly Henry for working really hard and doesn't give up even when it's tricky.
Lily for hard work and kindness

Beech Buzzy for his brilliant listening skills in class

Dahlan for his fantastic home learning. We all thought his icy Jack Frost music was brilliant.

Cherry Tallulah and Phoenix H for having brilliant ideas of things to take on an Artic adventure.

DIARY DATES

October

7th FOFS zoom meeting at 7.30pm
16th Harvest Day
23rd End of Term 1

November

2nd - INSET
3rd - Children return to school

COUGHS AND COLDS GUIDANCE

We have had a few queries from parents about whether their child can come into school with a cold as we have had a number of children catching colds with the weather changing etc.

After attending recent training on managing Covid in schools we would like to share some of the guidance. This was from a Public Health England Consultant to all the school leaders in East Sussex.

They stated that the symptoms for Covid, including for children is still a dry persistent cough, loss of taste or smell, high temp above 37.8. They recognised that it will get trickier as the cold weather comes in but wheezing, runny noses and phlegmy coughs are not a Covid symptom so children can still come into school if these are mild.

The rule of thumb that we have from PHE is that if a child needs Calpol to get them through the day then they should not be coming into school.

We appreciate that it can be a difficult decision for parents and recommend to check their temperature and see if your child needs any medication before making the decision on whether they are well enough to attend school. You can always contact the school office if you require any clarification.

MEET THE TEACHER

Thank you to all those who were able to make our alternative meet the teacher sessions. We know that this was difficult for some of you to get to and hope you have received the information you need. We recognise that the

current situation impacts on the building of relationships between home and school and teachers are aware that they don't get to chat to you at the end of the day as they normally would have. We will always take messages to the teachers via the school office or through the SLT on the gate in the mornings. We can arrange socially distance meetings where it is needed.

Staff have limited time in school due to needing to leave for the end of day cleaning so please be aware of this when needing to see them.

CENSUS DAY AND UIFSM - THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2020

On Thursday 1st October 2020, it is national School Census Day and, in an effort, to increase the uptake of the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) on that day, the menu will be Fish and Chips. There will also be a jacket potato on offer on this day.

Census Day is when the Local Authorities collect information electronically from every school in their area, partly to guide them in planning and funding. They collect details such as pupil numbers, numbers of pupils with Special Educational Needs, entitled to Pupil Premium funding, entitled to Free School Meals, attendance information and so forth. One thing in particular they are looking at this term is the number of children taking the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM), to provide schools with appropriate funding for this service such as utility costs.

To maximise our potential funding, we would encourage all families with children entitled to UIFSM to enjoy their free meal on Thursday 1st October, rather than bringing a packed lunch that day.

It is the number of children in Key Stage One **eating** the free meal on the actual day's lunchtime that informs our funding, rather than meals ordered for that day or children attending school. Pupils who bring a packed lunch from home unfortunately are not able to be included, nor are children who normally take UIFSM, but who are absent on 1st October.

Once again, we encourage as many as possible to commit to eating the UIFSM on Thursday that week; this will record those children as having eaten on Census Day and therefore count towards the total Government funding that will be allocated to our school for UIFSM for a whole year.

Hopefully it will also create some enthusiasm amongst the children who don't normally take the meals and lead to more of them eating over the rest of the school year.

Thank you for your continued support.

WRAPPERS

We will be collecting batteries, crisp and biscuit wrappers for recycling and the school will get 1 p for every packet collected. This is a collaborative project for both schools so the money will be split when received. Please save these up at home and your child can bring them in when you have a bagful. Many thanks.

HARVEST CELEBRATION

As you know, this year we are having to be creative with our usual event planning. This year our Harvest celebration will be on Friday 16th October. This will be a day of celebration held in each class. Children will be invited to bring food into school which will be left until the Monday and will then be delivered to City Mission, Brighton. We will share ideas of what to bring in as donations, nearer the time.

CLUBS

We have 2 school clubs running at present, these are running **until 4pm** on Wednesdays and Thursdays. As we use external providers for our clubs can you please complete the clubs letter for us to keep in school. We need this information in order to let teachers know who is going to that club at the end of the day, thank you.

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS

We are still awaiting the return of some data collection sheets. If you haven't done this, can you please return the sheet by Tuesday 29th September 2020 as it is imperative that we are able to have the correct contact and medical information on record. If you haven't returned your sheet by Tuesday, the office staff will have to call individuals and this takes up valuable time for them.

PARKING

Please do not park on the road at the back of the school as this is a private road and some of our neighbours require special access, thank you.

SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

If your child is due to start secondary school in September 2021 you will receive a leaflet about how to apply. Information can also be found on;

https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/admissions/secondary_school/

COATS

Please remember that your child need to bring a coat to school every day as they will always go outside each day even if it is just for a short time.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES

Could we please remind you to be prompt at the start of the day. The gate will close at 9am, after which your children will be recorded as late on the register.

| Arrive | | Depart | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 8.40 am | Holly Class | 3.05 pm | Cherry Class |
| 8.50 am | Beech Class | 3.10 pm | Beech Class |
| 8.55 am | Cherry Class | 3.15 pm | Holly Class |

Older children can leave earlier with younger siblings.

We have had an increasing number of parents who are arriving late to collect children at the end of the day. Whilst we are aware that there are occasionally circumstances beyond your control, could we please ask you to ensure you are prompt to collect children from the school gates. Often staff have to leave the site promptly for meetings and to allow our cleaning to take place, therefore it is key that children leave on time. If, for any reason, you are delayed, please let the office know at the earliest opportunity.

We recognise that at the end of the day there can be some congestion and would ask that you please wear a face mask when picking up your child so that other parents and carers feel safer if they come in closer contact with you.

FRIENDS OF FIRLE SCHOOL

TREASURER NEEDED We are looking for someone to take on the role as our treasurer as our previous treasurer has now moved on. If you would like to find out more about the role, please get in contact with Helen Sadler to discuss this further. Of course, if you are able to take on this role part time and would consider a shared role, we would be interested to hear from you.

Wednesday October 7th Zoom' into to our meeting at 7.30pm, details to log in will be sent seperately.

Regards,

Mrs Rachel West

Mrs Vicki Brown