

September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe we are at the end of our fourth week back at school already! Seeing the school filled with children again has been a joy and hearing the sounds of learning, giggles and excitement as I walk around the school brings a sense of normality back to life in school. We have all been so proud of the children's attitude on their return to school. They are following all the new systems brilliantly and respecting the new rules we have in place. They have shown themselves to be remarkably resilient and adaptable and the attitude they have come back to school with is one that deserves a great deal of credit. We are seeing children who have settled back into school life with a keenness to learn and a willingness to work hard – we couldn't ask for more.

We have been continually assessing over the course of this month and will continue to do so in order to identify those who are most in need of extra support through the catch-up premium that has been given to schools. As I have said before, there is not enough funding to spend on every pupil, so we will be identifying those children that we feel will be able to effectively catch up through our normal in school provision, those that need short term intervention and those that need longer term support. Through this, we will be able to allocate the funding in a needs based way. I remain confident in you as parents, in the pupils and in our staff team, that we will be able to minimise the effect that schools being shut to most pupils will have academically.

Pick Up and Drop Off

Thank you for your cooperation during this – the process has become much smoother in recent weeks. Can I please remind you that the purpose of the staggered drop offs and picks ups is to minimise congestion and mixing in the car park and to minimise the mixing of children from different bubbles. Please, when collecting your child in the afternoon, can I ask you to move on swiftly to make space for the next class who will be leaving school.

School Census Day and Funding

Further to the previous email on the subject, please can I strongly encourage you to order a packed lunch from Innovate, for your KS1 or Reception child, on Thursday, 1st September. The school is funded for the forthcoming year based on how many children order a lunch on this day.

We pay Innovate directly for all 'free' Key Stage 1 meals. This is then subsidised by a government grant. The amount of this grant is based on how many meals are ordered on Census day, the 1st October. We receive a grant of £2.30 (the cost of a meal from Innovate) per child, per school day. If only 60% of Key Stage 1 children order a meal on the 1st October, but then 90% of children have a meal when we move back to hot lunches then we would be left to cover the shortfall between Innovate's invoice and the government grant from our own budget, which is already in deficit. In short, the more children that have a meal next week, the more

funding we will receive! You are still able to send in a lunchbox for your child to supplement the Innovate one if you wish.

Ventilation

As per the guidance to schools, ensuring good ventilation through the school is seen as an important protective measure:

Once the school is in operation, it is important to ensure good ventilation and maximising this wherever possible, for example, opening windows and propping open doors.

(DfE Guidance for Opening of Schools)

Where possible, consider ways to maintain and increase the supply of fresh air, for example, by opening windows and doors.

(HSE Guidance on Ventilation)

This means that we will have all windows and classroom doors open at all times and, where possible, we will also have the fire exit doors in each classroom open as well. As the weather turns colder we will start to shut the fire exit doors to outside, but we will be keeping the windows and classroom doors to the corridors open. The heating will be on, but this will be less effective due to the amount of ventilation needed. Please consider this when dressing your child in the morning!

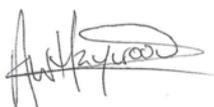
Fundraising and the BRSA

I was delighted to receive a cheque for £15,000 from the BRSA for their fundraising work last year. The amount is incredible given the events that were cancelled. As with many schools, there has been a hole left in our budget due to school closures. While some savings were made by not having all pupils in school, the increased cost of cleaning and resourcing individual equipment outweighs any savings made. The cost of extra cleaning is not reclaimable from the government.

There are several ways that you can help the BRSA continue to raise money through! There have been recent communications regarding the BRSA Lottery, Amazon Smile and Easy Fundraising. In the last year alone we have had more than £600 from these funding avenues and there are still many people within the school community who are not signed up to use them.

At the moment, every penny that we can get into school helps, so please do give consideration as to whether you are able to sign up to one of these.

As always, thank you for your continued support.



Alastair Haywood

Headteacher