

17<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents,

I do hope that you were able to spend some time with your children over the half term holiday period, and to make the most of the glorious weather which coincided with the break. After all the rain during May it was lovely to see blue skies!

Unfortunately, the current national situation with Covid-19 and the delta variant have left us all feeling 'blue'. The Department for Education have re-stated that there is to be no change to the requirements for schools to maintain the current working models at the present time. Therefore, we appreciate your continued support and cooperation around face masks and social distancing, and the necessity for us to follow all the rules and guidance to help keep everyone as safe as we can. I certainly am hopeful that by the end of term we may be in a position of being able to look forward to the next school year being less restrictive. I will keep you informed when I am made aware of any relaxation to the restrictions and when we may return to a pre-pandemic school day.

The ongoing need for very high levels of hygiene continues to affect a number of children. In school, as recommended, we generally use soap and water as this is kinder to the skin than sanitiser. However, we are aware that some children's hands do have cracked skin. We have therefore permitted children to bring in named hand cream to alleviate such soreness. We have an increasing number of bottles of hand cream and lotions in classrooms, many for children whose skin is not visibly affected. Your child should only bring in cream if their skin is cracked and sore, and this must be accompanied by a written note from you explaining the need.

The fine weather has caused the pollen count to rise sharply which affects a number of children who experience hay fever. Please may I remind all parents that any medication or other non-medical management approaches to the effects of hay fever must come through the school office and be accompanied by a signed medical form. The children should not be bringing in remedies in their school bags at Primary School age as this could pose a risk to other children. Thank you for your help with this matter – hay fever is sadly something we have to learn to cope with!

The children are working hard with their learning, and we are ensuring that every child is supported to secure any areas of learning insecurity, though this will take time to recover following such a long period of restrictions due to the pandemic. As a school we are taking a measured approach to this to ensure that the children truly understand their learning and can apply it appropriately. The children's learning has to be a key focus at the present time, though we are also trying to offer additional opportunities to the children to learn beyond the written curriculum.

Next week is National Sports Week, and we would like the children to wear their PE kit each day for school instead of their uniform; they will be reminded to bring this home tomorrow afternoon. Looking at the weather forecast it would be prudent for the children to bring their uniform into school as they would need to change if they are rained on! Over Monday and Tuesday children will be competing in their class group representing their House in sports day activities. As I have previously explained we are required to keep all class bubbles at two metres from any other class, and cheering and shouting is not allowed. Therefore, to safely allow all children to experience competing for their House, each class

will have their own exclusive 'sports day'. Every day next week the children will be participating in a special sport session at some point during the day – hence the need to be in kit. The teachers have worked hard to plan this for the children and we hope they will enjoy learning new skills across the week.

Buckinghamshire Council are considering the latest information from the Department for Education and will be issuing County wide guidance regarding transition arrangements for this year – hopefully by the end of this week. At present it is looking very probable that the secondary schools will be required to implement virtual transition arrangements, and that our incoming children to Reception in September will not be able to visit in person. We are planning to arrange a safe transition experience for the children currently in YR to Y5 on July 6th, and I will let you know once this has been Risk Assessed and agreed. I will be communicating with our new YR parents once the LA guidance has been issued. We are obviously very disappointed that our best laid plans are no longer permitted under Government restrictions. Prior to the end of this summer term I will share details of required equipment for learning for September, as this will depend on the Guidance being changed.

As the weather has improved a number of children are coming to school on scooters, bikes and skateboards! Whilst this is a lovely way to travel and keep fit, please may I remind everyone that your child should be wearing appropriate safety gear (helmet etc) at all times. It is also important that your child is aware of how to use their transport safely – the middle of the road and crowded pavements are not the place for children on their bikes and scooters! The children should have a licence from the office to have such things on site, and the parent must be certain that their child understands and follows safe use. On school site scooters and bikes must be wheeled not ridden, and skateboards must be carried.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school in all we are doing to try to keep everyone as safe as we can. I do appreciate that there are times when the different rules for schools and children's out of school groups do not seem to make sense, but we continue to do all we can to minimise any impact of the pandemic on our school community. (I personally would like not to have to spend ten days of the summer break indoors having to isolate!) Hopefully the light at the end of the tunnel is beginning to glimmer a little more brightly!

Mrs K. Tamlyn  
Head Teacher