

15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

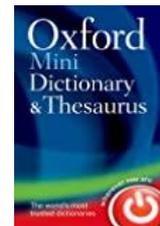
Dear Parents,

This is the last newsletter of the school year – a year which has been unprecedented! The children and staff have been amazing throughout this time of being under restrictions due to the global pandemic, and the children's learning has continued to be broad and balanced despite all the challenges. We are very proud of the progress they have made. On March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 I do not think any of us anticipated the length of time that schools would be constrained by Guidance from the Department for Education. However, there is now 'a light at the end of the tunnel' as schools have been officially advised that bubbles, and therefore the staggered timetable, can be removed from the start of the Autumn term. (They have though included the proviso that we should be prepared to return to the segregation of classes as needed to respond to local situations or outbreaks!)

In light of this, September will feel different in school, though we will be maintaining very high levels of hygiene and ventilation. Please could you note the following information:

- The children will be returning on Thursday September 2<sup>nd</sup> to their class groups, with the classrooms set up as the staff feel is most suitable for the children's learning. (Currently the Guidance suggests that rows will no longer be a legal requirement.)
- The one-way system on school premises of entering via the gates from Lammas Road and leaving onto the High Street remains in place at present, as it helps minimise congestion at the front gate.
- The start and collection times are as follows. Arrival between 8:25am and 8:35am. (Children will be permitted to wait on the drive if they do arrive just before 8:25am, but they should not be arriving early.) Collection at 3:15pm. (The gate will be opened at 3:10pm to allow parents to come onto school site ready for collection.) YR and Y1 parents should wait in sight of the exit from their child's classroom, whilst parents of children in Y2 to Y6 should wait further back on the playground as your children will come out independently. A member of staff will be on duty on the playground at the end of the day to ensure all children are safe.
- The children will continue to come straight into the building in the morning, wash their hands and go to class.
- Older children who can walk home, or walk out to meet parents away from the school site should be encouraged to do so independently. Please notify us in writing with a note to the class teacher on the first day of term if you wish your child to do this.
- On collection please could adults continue to walk to meet your child, unless you are awaiting a sibling, and leave the playground promptly. Please do not congregate on the pavement at the front of school. If you wish to chat with each other please could we request that you cross to the village green where you can converse safely away from the road. Thank you for your co-operation with this.
- Please could all parents who do need to travel to the school by car allow time to park away from the school, using the village hall or recreation ground car park facilities. It is important for the safety of the majority of children walking to school, and in consideration for our neighbours, that traffic in the immediate vicinity of the school is kept to a minimum.

- Our school year will begin, as usual, with Good to be Us for the first seven days. This always has a very strong focus on mental and emotional well-being as well as keeping healthy, keeping safe and study skills.
- From week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> September the children will need their PE kit in school. (For children from Y2 to Y6 this will be stored in their locker.) Trainers will be required from the start of term as the children do activities during Good to be Us which would require safe active footwear.
- We are delighted that we can, at last, return to offering hot lunches. These will need to be booked by Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August for the start of the school year. If your child is choosing to continue to bring a packed lunch then please could you ensure that all lunchboxes are named on the outside. Thank you.
- Children in YR and Y1 will no longer require a pencil case, as they will be able to use shared class equipment. Children from Y2 to Y6 will need their own small pencil case with the following equipment: 2 HB pencils; a white board pen; a small eraser; a pencil sharpener; a 15 cm ruler; 12 coloured pencils; a 43g glue stick; and a handwriting pen (from Y3 to Y6). This is also listed on the school web-site. Should you wish to purchase items from the school, then please send the exact money and a note of the items required at the start of the term in September and they will be processed as soon as possible. Please note that the pencil case must be able to fit into your child's desk drawer. Sadly some of the more popular stores seem to sell only huge pencil cases which are not suitable for school.
- We would like to request that children in KS2 (Y3 to Y6) have their own pocket Oxford dictionary and thesaurus. We would be very grateful if these could be available for the children to use from the week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> September. It has proved extremely beneficial for the children to have their own books for use across the curriculum. I understand that these are available on Amazon for approximately £4. Should the cost cause you concern, please do contact me.
- The Future Starz (formerly Game) will continue to offer our Morning Activity Club, and information is available on our website regarding accessing this offer.
- During the pandemic we took the decision to allow trainers as an alternative to school shoes. For the return in September this will continue but trainers should be black in line with our shoe policy. Thank you.



The Department for Education have published a Guide for Parents ready for the return to school in September. Please do take a moment to look at this online following the link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

The Government have also published a Guide entitled Rediscover Summer which you may find interesting: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rediscover-summer> Please also find attached to this newsletter details of a local opportunity from one of the school's families which may be of interest.

In school the children are still very engaged in their learning for this year. Y2 have a special Victorian school day experience today as part of their History learning. Although the desks being rows no longer feel strange, the teaching methods are very different! Y6

have been extremely busy with their mini-enterprise. The delicious smell of goodies baking has drifted around the school over recent days, making us all feel hungry! I do hope that many of you will feel able to support Y6 in their endeavour – not to mention enjoy the product!

Although we are still not permitted to hold school assemblies until September, the teachers have thought very carefully about the recipients of our annual awards. These will be announced in class assemblies next Tuesday. The Head Teacher awards recognise academic achievement; and citations which accompany a child's entry into our Roll of Honour in the Green Book will be shared with the class and a copy will come home with the certificate. We are very proud of all the children for all they have achieved this year.

On behalf of the staff team and personally I would like to thank you all for your support over this past school year, and for the gifts which many of you have given to the staff. They are much appreciated.

I do hope that you are all able to enjoy a pleasant time over the summer holiday period. Sadly, infections are on the rise across the country and we have been led to expect this to continue over the coming weeks, but I do hope that our school community continues to feel minimum impact. We look forward to welcoming back the children – fit and healthy – on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September between 8:25am and 8:35am.

Mrs K. Tamlyn

Head Teacher