

9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents,

It has been a joy to welcome the children back to school and to hear about the wonderful things they have been up to over the summer break. We are all mindful of the need to continue to be cautious regarding the pandemic, and are, as always, following the Guidance for Schools issued by the Department for Education. Ventilation and good hygiene remain a priority, and staff are invited to continue to test twice weekly until the end of the month, at which point this will be reviewed. Our current Risk Assessment is on the school website if you wish to look at the details of the measures we have in place.

However, we have been able to group the desks for the children again which supports their discussion in learning; indoor PE will begin next week; and we are able to hold whole school assemblies. I am sure that the children excitedly told you last Friday that Marc Danecker, our drumming teacher, gave a demonstration to the children. He has some spaces for new pupils this year, so if you are interested in your child learning drumming please look at the Parent tab on the website under extra-curricular activities and contact him. Mrs Dryburgh, our woodwind teacher, also has a number of spaces available for new pupils. Please do contact her if you are interested in your child learning to play the flute or clarinet.

As always, we have started our school year with Good to be Us. The learning has focused on well-being, keeping safe, healthy eating and lifestyles, money skills, study skills, and our core values of respect, patience, teamwork, passion and determination. The full curriculum begins next week, including the most welcome return of Curriculum Enrichment. This rotational curriculum, taught in house groups from mixed year groups, is an important part of the learning experience we offer to the children. Over the course of the year all children engage with the four activities for their year group, which are this year:

YR and Y1	Cookery	Gardening/nature	Music games	Nursery rhymes
Y2 and Y3	Cookery	IT activities	Board games	Sewing
Y4, Y5 and Y6	Cookery	First Aid	Makaton	Olympic and Paralympic sports

More details including the skills the children will be learning will be on the website next week. This was always a favourite part of the week for the children, so we are very much looking forward to these sessions. There is obviously a cost involved in these activities, and we request a voluntary contribution of £10 per term to assist in the provision of materials. This will be set up on e-Schools and we thank you in advance for your support with this.

Another aspect of the change to the Guidance is that we are no longer required to keep the class groups separate. The start of the school day with the arrival between 8:25am and 8:35am is working well. Please remember that should your child arrive a little promptly, then they can wait on the drive where they are safely off Lammas Road. The children then go straight into class. However, on reflection, and in response to parental comments, at the end of the school day when you have met with your child at 3:15pm exiting the school site by both the front and back gates will begin from tomorrow. This should reduce the congestion on the High Street at this time. May I also remind those of you who need to come by car, to please use the park and walk facilities from the Village Hall or the

Recreation Ground. Should there be a need to park nearer to the school then please may I request that you do so with due consideration for our neighbours. Thank you.

Please note that as we are no longer required to Track and Trace we are no longer required to know full details of personal contacts. Therefore, if your child is in Y2 or above we do not need to know who is collecting them unless it is a last-minute change of which your child is unaware. Please ensure you tell your child who is collecting them at the end of the school day, and they will then find that person on the playground. A senior member of staff is on duty at the end of the school day, and the children have been told to come to the member of staff if they cannot find their adult. Y1 and YR children are dismissed from the classroom by the staff to their adult. Should there be a change please let the office know, as the youngest children do find it challenging to remember! If you would like your child to walk home without an adult, please send an e-mail to the office which will cover the rest of the school year. Thank you.

As the world is beginning to move towards our previous 'normal' you may be considering holiday plans. Please do note that holidays in term time cannot be authorised, so do check the term dates prior to booking. The Department for Education have requested that schools remind you that 'Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.' I do appreciate how challenging this may be in light of the changing picture.

Attached to this newsletter is the calendar for Parents as far as dates are known at this time. Please note an important change to pre-pandemic days. After much consideration and reflection, including parental comments, we have decided to offer a different opportunity for you to see your child 'perform'. Each class will be offering a presentation to their parents over the course of the year – not in two big Key Stage productions. This means that your children will be centre-stage for their presentation. These will almost all be held on Friday afternoons so please note the date for your child's class. We do hope that you will be able to attend with such advance notice. (For this year only, Y6 are going to offer a performance at Christmas time as well as their leavers assembly.) Please also note that we are hoping to return to the Village Green for a short Remembrance Day commemoration to which you are cordially invited.

The Chair of Governors has asked me to share with you that due to the end of term of office of our long-standing Chair of Finance Committee, we are seeking to recruit a new governor with financial experience. If you, or someone you know, has such experience and may be interested in becoming a Governor of our school, please contact Dr Simon Aulton via the school office e-mail address. We would like to thank Mr Brimmell for his support to the school over these past years.

Next Friday the class Curriculum Newsletters will be added to the VLE for you to access. Please do take a moment to read this, as it will give you information regarding the learning which your child will be doing, and other information. We have taken the decision to continue to post these electronically rather than sending them home in hard copy, but you may wish to print one out for your convenience.

Due to the continuing situation we have not offered Meet the Teacher meetings this year and Autumn term Parent Consultation Meetings will be virtual. However, we plan to hold in person meetings in the Spring. We are now permitted to welcome visitors back into school. A contribution towards the cost of external visitors is included in the requested

termly contributions. If any parents have the time capacity to be able to help in school – either with Curriculum Enrichment or listening to readers, please do send your details to the school office. All adults who help in school are required to complete a DBS check prior to working with the children. As staff do currently, we would request that you also take an LFT test, and we are able to offer these. We look forward to working with you over the coming year.

This has been rather a 'bumper edition' of the newsletter – as the start of the year often is! I do hope you were all able to enjoy some quality time with your children over the summer break, and look forward to an exciting year.

Mrs K. Tamlyn

Head Teacher