

2nd October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Updates

Firstly, thank you for your ongoing and continued support. It has been lovely to see so many of you at events across this week. Our McMillian coffee morning raised £176.05. A massive thank you to everyone who contributed.

We are pleased to inform you that following an interview process on Thursday, Mrs Wheatley was the successful candidate and will take up post as our Deputy Headteacher with immediate effect. I am sure along with myself you will extend your congratulations to her and continue to work alongside myself and Mrs Wheatley as we move our school from strength to strength.

We are now well into the Autumn term and our current whole school attendance is 95%. Can you please continue to support us with attendance as we move into the winter months. We do have Calpol in school and can give this to children in consultation with parents. We are also ensuring every classroom has a 'Sneeze Station' with tissues and hand sanitiser as well as appropriate ventilation. Can we ask parents to ensure children wash their hands and use the Catch it, Bin It, Kill It slogan to try where possible and prevent the spread of coughs and colds. As the weather is becoming unsettled, please can you ensure that children are addressed appropriately for the weather. It is cold on the yard, and we do go out whatever the weather.

As many of you are aware we are continuing to improve our outdoor area and have recently purchased various equipment to support this including a mud kitchen, football goals, a sandpit, water play equipment and den building equipment. We are also continuing to work and plan our sensory garden and have plans to extend the trim trail. We are hoping to allow children to access these activities whatever the weather and as such request that if you want children to access these activities, they bring a pair of named wellies into school to store in the clothing store. We are also requesting children wear waterproofs to cover clothes for these activities we have some waterproofs in school, but children may bring in their own – please ensure these are named if you choose to send them in.

Uniform

Please can you ensure that your child has the correct uniform in school.

On PE days they should wear either their PE purple hoodie or school jumper with their PE kit. On other days children should be in full correct uniform as follows:

Our school uniform colours are in purple and grey as listed below.

- Tartan or grey skirt/pinafore dress/purple and white summer dress in summer
- Grey trousers/shorts in summer (not leggings)
- White shirt
- Purple & grey tie (available from the school office)
- Purple knitted jumper or cardigan (with logo available from the above website)
- Plain black polishable shoes

PE Uniform

- Plain black shorts
- Plain t-shirt in your child's team colour (you will be notified of the colour)
- A pair of plimsolls (indoor) or trainers (outdoor)
- Plain black/grey jogging bottoms and school jumper/hoodies for outdoor lessons in cold weather- elasticated joggers are essential for younger children

If you need support with uniform, please let us know we have a range of preloved items we can share.

We have a few extreme hair styles creeping into school can we remind parents these are not in line with our school policy which states "The school does not permit children to have 'extreme' haircuts that could serve as a distraction to other children. Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied up to prevent it becoming a distraction when children are trying to work." Having hair tied up also helps minimise the spread of headlice. If children have long hair and wish to access the trim trail this will need to be tied up to avoid injury.

Please note the only bags children need in school are their homework bag or a book bag. We unfortunately do not have storage for larger bags.

Supervision on the Yard at the End of the Day

We have had several concerns raised by parents and staff in relation to the supervision of children at the end of the day on the yard, climbing trees, playing on the trim trail, kicking footballs around etc. Can we ask parents supervise their children appropriately to prevent injuries and accidents.

Timings for the School Day

Please note timings are as follows:

Start of the day - Doors open at 8:35 a.m. for children to enter school and close at 8:45 a.m. any children arriving after this time should come in through the main door.

End of the day – Doors open for children to leave at 3:15 p.m. and all children can be collected from the appropriate door at this time.

Morning Boosters

All year 5/6 children should attend from 8:00 a.m. on a morning so they can access free breakfast and our Reading Plus Intervention.

Mental health support for children

As part of our ongoing programme of wellbeing and mental health support for our children we are currently working with the Mental Health Support Team from the local authority to offer our children targeted workshops across a number of weeks. This term we have a focus on Friendship in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and Managing Feelings in Year 1 and 2. Children are engaging well in these sessions. Please watch out for further events this terms linked to Tea and Talk. We have also signed up to a new programme called 'Melve' which all children will take part in across World Mental Health week. All of these programmes run alongside our 'SCARF' PHSE programme which children access weekly.

Reading

Reading is the greatest gift any of us can give a child as it unlocks the world of learning. We ask for your support with this every single day. It does not matter if your child is in Reception or Year 6, please continue to read with them and talk about what they are reading. Please note that all children should now be bring reading books home as follows:

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2:

- Phonics sounds and tricky words to practice.
- E Book slip on a Friday linked to the book they have been reading in school all week.
- Reading book matched to their current reading level
- Reading for pleasure book for you to share with your child
- Reading scrap book as and when your child requests the book to contribute to their class scrapbook – please support your child with this to celebrate a story they enjoy and encourage other children their class to read it.

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6

- Reading book matched to their current reading level
- Reading for pleasure book for you to share with your child
- Reading scrap book as and when your child requests the book to contribute to their class scrapbook – please support your child with this to celebrate a story they enjoy and encourage other children their class to read it.

Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us. In the first instance you should speak to your child's class teacher. If you need to speak to your child's class teacher, please can you arrange an appointment via the main office so that we can start our days promptly and children do not miss out on learning time. All teachers are happy to meet face to face or facilitate a telephone call. We see your child's learning journey as a partnership and are keen to ensure that school is a happy and positive place for your child. Rather than leaving problems please be proactive and speak to us immediately if you have any queries or concerns.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

H L Templeton
Mrs H L Templeton
Executive Headteacher