

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had a wonderful return to school and children have settled back to learning quickly. It was lovely to see them all back and to see parents and carers in school again. Reception and our new nursery children have also settled in quickly. I am sure EYFS parents will agree that the freshly painted EYFS yard looks great and much brighter. We also have new art work to be delivered. A massive thank you to Mr. Welsh for all of his hard work with the painting, he has done a great job. His next project is the Key Stage 2 'sensory garden' on the main yard so watch out for those developments. I hope everyone has noticed our new 'Moorside M' on the front of the building too.

UPDATES:

Firstly, thank you to those parents who attended our 'meet the teacher' session last night. It was lovely to see you. It is vital that you as parents are engaged in your children's learning to ensure they make the best possible start to life. Please ensure where possible you attend all events so you are up to date and have the information needed to support your child. All staff give up their own time to facilitate these events and support our children and parents.

We shared various information with parents to ensure we have a smooth start to the new academic year.

- Thank you to those parents who have worked with us in relation to our new soft-landing timing of 8:35 a.m. Please note school starts promptly for all children at 8:45 a.m. Please ensure all children are on time as they lose valuable learning time.

All children can access a free breakfast club from 8:00 a.m. on Monday. Children in Years 4-6 are requested to attend this, so they can access Reading Plus to support with reading speed.

- Attendance remains high in the national agenda. Please can you ensure your children are in school daily and inform us of any absences by 9:00 a.m. We will follow up any absences and continue to monitor and support parents where attendance is not in line with target levels.
- Lots of our children look very smart in their uniform however, we still have children wearing leggings, these are not part of our uniform or PE kit and must not be worn for school. Please ensure uniform is in line with school policy. If you are struggling please let us know and we can support with this. On PE days, children in Years 1-6 should come in PE kit. Can reception children still come in their uniform with their PE kit in their bag. Please ensure this is the school uniform kit and not simply sportswear. All parents have been notified of PE Teams and children should wear a plain non-logo T-shirt in this colour for PE. This information has been shared with parents but if you need this information please speak to your child's class teacher. Can we also ask that shoulder length hair is tied back so we can try to minimise the spread of headlice. **PLEASE LABEL UNIFORM!**
- Bags in school – due to limited hanging space can children please avoid bringing large backpacks to school. Reading bags will be sufficient as children no longer need to transport PE kits. Obviously, year 5/6 swimming is an exception to this.

- Communication and the challenges with 'Our Schools App' was raised historically at a parent drop in session. We will now also be sending information via school gateway emails. Please can you ensure your email address is up to date. This will also reduce photocopying and paper costs.
- Homework will be sent home weekly on a Friday to be returned by a Tuesday. Any children not completing homework will be required to complete it in their own time at school – i.e. breaktime or lunchtime. Children will bring home a math's workbook and comprehension book with the usual slip of what to complete. They will also have access to Times Tables Rockstars, Spelling shed and Year 5/6 will have access to SATS companion.
- All curriculum information for this year was shared with parents so they have clear overviews if you did not receive this information please contact your child's teacher directly.
- We will be running a range of curriculum workshops to support parents and allow them to work alongside their children across the year. Please check our diary dates.
- MOORSIDE MONSTER – we have not highlighted this for a little while but historically we have requested £1 per family per week to support with school fund to subsidise craft activities, after school clubs, cooking etc. Could we ask that parents continue to donate to this via the school gateway. This can be done weekly, monthly or termly and all of these funds are spent directly on your children.

Reading

As I explained to parents who attended our meeting reading is the greatest gift we can give our children as it unlocks the rest of the curriculum and world to them. It does not matter how old your child is it is still important you listen and take time to hear them read their reading book. In EYFS this also includes reading stories to them. Research has shown where children are read to daily by parents their vocabulary and language is significantly improved by the time they begin reception.

- All children will begin to bring reading books home from Friday 15th September. Please ensure books are returned as they cost us significant sums of money. Every year we need to replace books that have simply not been returned and this money could be spent on improving resources in other areas if books are simply returned.
- In Reception and Year 1 this will be the book they have been reading in school all week and the aim of reading this at home is to consolidate skills. You should hear your child read and return this book to school on the Monday morning. Please note if books are not received back by the Tuesday an automatic invoice for a replacement will be issued by the office. The reason for this is

children need to consolidate this book in school however we need the books back for the next group the following week and if we do not have them then we will be left with groups of children who are unable to access their reading.

- Year 2 – 6 will bring home books matched to their current reading level. These books and reading records should be returned daily. Please note again if these books are not returned after a period of a week we will issue invoices for their replacement costs.
- All children from nursery to year 6 will also bring home a reading for pleasure book. These are simply books to enjoy and there are set stories across each year group. Again, please ensure these are shared to ensure they can be enjoyed by all our families.
- Children across the year will also bring home their whole class reading scrap book to add to so they can share stories they have enjoyed with the rest of their class.

Thank you for your ongoing and continued support in ensuring all of our children receive the very best education and the start they deserve. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Mrs H L Templeton

Executive Headteacher