



WELCOME BACK!!

...and welcome to all those of you who are new to the school.

I hope you have all had a decent summer and have been able to enjoy some of the sunshine with your children.

Although we did not actually shut the school at all from March to July, it seems an awfully long time since we have seen most of you.

THANK YOU

Most importantly, I want to thank the very greatest majority of you who have done your utmost to support us by doing everything that we have asked you to do in order to keep everyone safe.

Thank you also to those of you who have taken the time to stop and thank me. Your kind words and understanding that we are doing our best, means a lot.

Also, on behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank you for the lovely gifts we received at the end of last term.

We really are trying our best

Please continue to be patient as we refine our routines and our requests of you. Using our experiences since March and guidance from the DfE, we have done our utmost to put into place what is necessary to maximise safety and minimise risk, but it was always going to be the case that we would have to revise and refine things once we had seen how our plans worked in practice. It was also always going to be the case that we made mistakes (we are only human) and to some may be seen as not having a clue! However, we have also done our utmost to continue to refine our control measures. For example, we noticed that the risk of year group bubbles crossing over was greatest when they were washing their hands ready for lunch. To avoid this and to enable handwashing to take place in the classroom, all children now have a small hand towel of their own. This will not be used by anyone else and, of course, will be washed regularly.

Please be patient with us and please understand that I have tried very hard not to over-complicate matters, so whilst some things may seem foolish to you, whatever has been put in place has been because professional advice indicates that it is necessary to protect all of us.

School Governors

The Governing Body have asked me to extend a warm "welcome back" to everyone on their behalf.

Your representatives on the Governing Body are:

Dave Westbury (children in Y6, Y3 and Nursery) and
Wendy Lamb (Children in Y2 and Y1).

The Use of Phones and Photographs

Please do not use mobile phones on the school site whilst children are present. Aside from the obvious safeguarding issues this presents, you are also putting yourself at risk of serious accusation.

Please do not be offended if a member of staff asks you to put your phone away

SCHOOL DINNERS CURRENTLY

As you know, the only school meals available at the moment are sandwich meals. This seems to have caused a little confusion that I did not see coming! So, to clarify:

- At the beginning of each day the class teacher will take a dinner register. If they have bought in a packed lunch from home, they should answer "packed lunch" and if they are booking a sandwich meal provided by school, they should answer "school meal". (The confusion has come because some children have answered packed lunch because they know school will be providing a sandwich meal/their packed lunch!)

Of course, I will be sure that teachers are clear on this matter as well!

- For those of you who do not pay for school meals (All of Rec and KS1 and those children in KS2 who are entitled to FSM), this is literally all that is needed to book your child a meal. You do not have to make any other booking. All that we ask that your child sticks to one or the other all week so that the kitchen can try to cater for the right number of pupils.

- If you pay for meals, you can continue to do so, booking the school meal/ sandwich meal simply by your child answering "school meal". As previously, you must send the full week's payment of £12 on Monday. Please ask your child to give this to their teacher. Please do not take it to the school office.

- The sandwich meal currently provided as a school meal includes:

A sandwich (2 slices of bread)

A bag of crisps

A piece of fruit

A yoghurt

- Sandwich choices this week have been cheese, tuna or ham. Next week we hope to increase the choice with the addition of chicken mayonnaise and egg mayonnaise. However, whilst I can assure you that all known dietary requirements will be met and that all children will have a choice, I cannot promise that we will receive the selection above, nor can I promise that all children will have the choice of all 5 types of sandwich. Obviously, we will do our utmost to be equitable, ensuring that we rotate who has first choice etc.

SCHOOL DINNERS

School dinners are **£12.00** each week (£2.40 per meal). Dinners must be paid for at the beginning of the week for the whole week. Children cannot swap between dinners and packed lunches from home during the week, they can only change at the start of a new week.

Please be aware that:

- the latest dinner orders can be sent to the kitchen is 10am
- dinners cannot be booked for any child arriving after 10am unless you have arranged this with us the day before. A packed lunch must be sent instead.

Free School meals for ALL children in Reception and KS1 classes.

All children in these year groups, no matter what the household income and no matter what type of benefits are being claimed, are entitled to a free meal provided by the school kitchen. If you have not returned the forms sent out, or need more information, please ask at the school office. If you don't usually take up this entitlement because you aren't sure about what meals may be provided, currently only sandwich lunches are being provided, but when hot meal service returns we will send out menus for your information.

If your child is in KS2 (Y3 – Y6) and you are entitled to free meals but don't claim them, please ask for a form at the office. Once you have had your claim accepted, it doesn't mean that your child has to always have a dinner. More than 50% of our families save an awful lot of money by claiming and no-one but adults involved in the admin know who pays and who doesn't. Once your claim has been accepted it will continue for as long as you are entitled.

Just think of how much money you could save if you pay for dinners now but could claim - **£170.40** this term, **£340.80** if you have 2 children... that could be a huge help towards the cost of Christmas. Over the year you would save **£465** for one child and **£912** for two. Now that really is food for thought!

If you think you may be eligible, pick up a form at the office – the sooner you do it, the more you could save.



Newsletters

I have been made aware that a good deal of criticism came my way regarding the newsletter I put on the website before the end of the holiday, assuming that you would welcome some information about our reopening. It seems that a number of parents were only able to download a scrambled version onto their phones. If this should happen to you, please try going directly to the school website, following the link and downloading from there. I cannot promise that this will resolve every issue, but it may help some of you.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The August newsletter included key term dates.

Given current restrictions we cannot plan visits or trips – even if venues are open, transport is in many ways a much bigger issue.

Unfortunately it would be foolish of us to assume that we can hold events that parents are invited to when we are not even having school assemblies at the moment. I am very sorry and I assure you that as soon as the world is a safer place we will be holding all the usual events.