



NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome back to our new school year! We hope you are all safe and well and we are looking forward to welcoming all our children back on Thursday 3rd September and our new Reception class, after their induction sessions this week, from Monday 7th September.

Our first newsletter is never normally issued before the children start back but clearly this is a very different year. Throughout the period of partial opening we tried to communicate on a regular and timely basis. There were many occasions where we were waiting for updates and guidance and this led to delays in letters and texts going out. We can only apologise if you were left wondering where we were but we were sharing those frustrations too. However, our aim is to keep in touch as often as we can to keep you fully up to date on the situation and arrangements in place.

For those of you who are new to the school, as well as the electronic newsletter which comes out at least monthly, we also have the text message service to communicate information to you all, including letting you know when a newsletter is issued. Please ensure that the office has up to date contact details. In light of the situation currently, the levels of communication may be higher so it is key that we are getting information through. We will be sending our data sheets out early this term so please update if you need to. Thank you.

You can also get other letters, information, dates and the latest newsletter on our website at www.richardwakefieldschool.com.

Paper copies of letters will only be issued where a parental signature of consent is required.

STARTING BACK

Before the holidays we wrote to you detailing the arrangements to enable the return to school of all of our children. These are still available on the website with a link on the front page.

Please make yourself familiar with these arrangements in time for the new term. We have a full risk assessment in place completed in line with government guidelines and expectations overseen by The de Ferrers Trust. The recent government update around face coverings does not include new advice for Primary schools.

Please can I draw your attention to the following;

- The crossing patrol will hopefully be back in place on Burton Street.
- We are maintaining the one way arrangements at each gate that we had in place during partial opening. There are signs indicating entry and exit and staff will be there to guide you. Please note that if you are entering from Chatsworth Drive then entry is across the staff car park. The car park will be closed at 8:15am with one gate open. If you are in a car, please do not use this entry for turning. There will be a temporary barrier in place. For those either new or who have not been to school since lockdown, please be aware that when entering from the Chatsworth Drive entrance, part of the route involves walking on the grass.
- Please help us by avoiding congestion at the gates, at the drop off points and on the roads outside school. We appreciate that it is hard just to drop off and leave, especially with the younger ones, but please try not to wait around. This did work really well last half term with the younger pupils. If you are catching up for a chat with other parents, please do so away from the points of entry to avoid crowds and help to make others feel safe. Thank you.

Please note that there are currently roadworks on Burton Street which will affect parking and pavement use.

- We have a persistent issue around car parking but in light of the current situation, we ask you to be even more considerate to both our neighbours, other vehicle users and pedestrians.
- If you need to communicate or pass a message on, please email or phone the office as it will remain shut for the foreseeable future. We will come back to you as quickly as we can but please be patient in receiving a response.

You can also use our Curriculum enquiry email that can be accessed via the website which we set up during lockdown. We will respond to this as quickly as we can.

- If you wish to wear a mask whilst on site, you are welcome to do so.
- A reminder that we are asking you to send your child in with minimal belongings and small bags. There is no specific guidance regarding lunchboxes but if the children use something that can be cleaned easily at home, this would be advisable. The lunchboxes will be stored in class groups.
- In order to stagger lunchtimes, we have had to shorten these slightly. Whilst extra time is allocated for our youngest children, the time is tight for our older children. If your child is a slow eater we would appreciate your support in encouraging them to speed up to enable all pupils to get through lunchtime promptly and ensure cleaning between sittings. Thank you!

Courtesy to staff

We appreciate that you all will have certain anxieties and concerns. Please can I remind you all that staff will have those same feelings too. We were very fortunate to stay open throughout the lockdown from March to July and this was due entirely to the dedication of the staff here and the willingness of everyone to do what they could to provide for the children in our care. Their efforts were appreciated by all and the many messages sent by appreciative parents were gladly received.

As we start back again, please be considerate to all the staff especially on the doors and gates and those in the office. Everyone is working towards the same aim, ensuring that all children can be safe and be able to learn.

Any abuse will not be tolerated by the school or The de Ferrers Trust and in the current climate would be extremely disappointing. Thank you!

There will always be issues that arise in school but please speak to either the staff, Mrs Lowe or myself if you have any queries or concerns, however minor. As we say on every newsletter, please do not wait to contact us because the sooner we know about any issue the quicker we can resolve it.

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

Please remember that the school cannot authorise any term time holidays – the implications of these with quarantine restrictions on persons returning from certain destinations are extremely significant.

Term time absence for anything other than medical reasons can only be authorised for exceptional circumstances.

Please refer to the Attendance Policy on our website.

Our next newsletter will be issued in the coming days with information about curriculum issues e.g. what day your child will have PE etc.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

SCHOOL MEAL – PRICE INCREASE

We have been informed by Caterlink, our catering provider, that there will be an increase in the price of a school meal from £2.20 to £2.25 from 3rd September. This is the first price increase for a number of years and I'm sure you will agree that this remains good value for a healthy, well balanced mid-day meal.