



NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We apologise for sending another newsletter so quickly but it is important to keep you as updated as we can with everything.

The information below is set out to provide information about aspects of the day in school. Clearly, we have minimised as far as possible the movement of pupils round school and the amount of people or equipment they come into contact with. For example, all IT lessons in the coming weeks will be on iPads which can be cleaned easily.

We are aware that our arrangements for the start and end of school will need refining as we move forward. These are testing times for all of us and we have never stated that we would get everything right first time. Please help us by being patient, social distancing and spending the minimum time you can at drop off and pick up. We are continually reviewing procedures to make them as safe and efficient as possible. Thank you.

There will always be other 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.

READING BOOKS

One of the key parts of every child's learning is the home school partnership around reading. Thank you for all your efforts during lockdown but clearly, during this period, all children's reading development will have been impacted in some form. All teaching staff, as a priority, will evaluate where each child is and use their professional judgement to put each child in their class back onto the scheme at the point they feel they should be. Each child will be given a book on Monday that corresponds to their current level on Bug Club. As we read with the children during the

week we may move the book bands either up or down in the following week if we feel there are skills that need consolidating. If a child is moved back, the teacher will speak to the parent on the phone.

The current situation means that reading books coming in and out of school and being reissued to children is something that has to be managed safely whilst recognising the importance of reading at home.

Reading books will be issued on Monday each week and will need to be returned by Friday of that week. The books will then be 'quarantined' for 72hrs over the weekend before being reissued. Our on line system Bug Club will be there and available to use over the weekend and during the week if needed. Please note, if a book is not returned by the Friday then it may not be possible to issue a new one the following Monday as we have limited resources.

Older children may keep a book for more than one week as they have longer books. However, the quarantine arrangements will still apply. Class teachers will **not** be writing in diaries, for obvious reasons. They will be making detailed notes of their own to keep in school. Also, they will acknowledge parental comments and will either mark or get the children to mark that the teacher has heard them read. We are very aware of the value of the reading diary for communication so please don't stop using it. The teachers will monitor these and whilst not responding with a comment in the book, they will respond in another way if required.

As stated earlier, we are low on stock. If a book is lost or damaged you may be asked to replace it or make a donation towards a replacement. Thank you.

PE DAYS

Please see below the days on which your child will be doing PE. As stated previously, please send your child in their PE kit on this day to avoid clothes being kept in school.

KS1 - Wednesday

Year 3 (both classes) - Monday

Year 4 – Friday

Year 5 – Friday

Year 6 - Tuesday

Reception will not have formal PE lessons initially but will have a range of physical activities built into every day.

We are aiming to send a reminder text for each class the night before for the first week. Details are also on the class pages of the website.

Due to staggered lunchtimes, we have had to stop Active 15 and Walk-a-mile activities. To compensate, during the week individual classes will be doing extra activities that don't require the children to change.

CLASS CHATS

We have always started the term with each class inviting parents and carers into school to meet the teacher and have a discussion about the year ahead. Sadly, this is another activity that cannot go ahead in the current climate. Instead, we will be issuing, via the website, class information detailing the topics to be covered, days for homework and other class specific information – please see the class pages.

All homework, and indeed work completed in school, will be marked but like every education establishment, we are changing our methods to make this a safe practice for our staff.

As soon as we can, we will invite parents in for an 'open classroom' or a 'meet the teacher' session. Please bear with us.

We are aiming to hold parental consultations before half term in early October. If these cannot be face-to-face meetings then we will use either phone calls or some virtual format. Once the children have settled and we have assessed where they are, it is key that we have a conversation with all of you about next steps.

ILLNESS and ABSENCE

Please report illness in the same way as before with a phone call to the office. Many of you will be erring on the side of caution regarding this area. There are guidelines set out by the DFE and a link is attached.

Every school has clear procedures to follow should we have a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 in or linked to school.

LUNCH MONEY

We had hoped to have a cashless system in place for this academic year but the lockdown has delayed this. Hopefully it will not be long before this is in place.

In the interim, please send lunch money in an envelope to the class teacher who will forward the monies on to the office.

Most other correspondence we are hoping to do electronically.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS

We hope you understand that we will not be setting up any extra-curricular or lunchtime clubs until half term. For a school that tries to ensure that our children are able to join many activities in and out of school, this is clearly a shame.

We are already discussing with other schools and partners when we can start back with activities and fixtures. It is such a shame that the pupils are unable to participate in so much currently and we look forward to the time when they can.

The Breakfast and Tea Time Club are open on the school site. At the moment, they are operating out of our school Hall (this is not currently in use by the classes) and will be in our new dining room as soon as possible. Please use the contact details from our website of you wish your child to attend.

WORSHIP

As a Church of England school, worship plays a key role in our school life and we are rightly proud of our links with the local church, St Mary's. However, until further notice we will be unable to visit church.

Worship will continue in school but it will be based in the classroom and completed as individual classes. There will be no communal gathering in the hall until we are allowed. Singing in worship and in music lessons as a whole are on hold as well.

We are still using our monthly Christian value as our theme for worship. The theme for September is; Positivity. We felt this was a key value for all of us within our local community as we embark upon our new school year and the challenges we must overcome. Your children have certainly embodied this value on their first days in school -

we are extremely proud and in awe of their resilience and positivity for the start for this school year.

PARENTAL QUERIES

As we stated on the last newsletter, if you have a question around your child's learning or anything about the school day, please use the curriculum support email accessed via the website – **this now has a new name to recognise it is for general enquiries from parents –**

homesupport.richardwakefield@deferrerstrust.com .

Please use this rather than the office email which, as you can imagine, is inundated from many different sources. This will allow a member of staff to reply to your query or concern with an email reply or phone call much more quickly and efficiently. Thank you.

(N.B. It might still have the old name until after this weekend)