



Headteacher Update

27.9.21

Dear Parents,

What a super start to term we have had. It has been wonderful to have all of the children back to school and start the new term with so much enthusiasm and lots of smiles. Our youngest children are all settling into our nursery and reception classes well and where children have changed teachers they are embracing this transition and showing great maturity.

It has been a delight to do celebration worship with the school again albeit in key stages and give out many Headteacher certificates to children who are living out our vision and values in so many different ways.

I am aware that there are lots of questions that parents have about the school and thought a bi-weekly Headteacher update may help with some of these. Please also feel free to come and chat to me on the gate. I am loving getting to know you all and am happy to help where I can. Equally if there is something you think I could include in my update, I'm happy to take suggestions to make this letter helpful for you.

Uniform

It has come to my attention that our uniform expectations are somewhat vague on our website and this hasn't supported you to know what your children need to wear to school. We will be updating the website shortly with pictures and a more detailed list. I appreciate you have purchased much of what you need for the new school year, so please don't rush and buy new now but for future reference, I hope this gives more clarity:

Our daily uniform should be:

- school or plain blue polo shirt
- school logo sweater or cardigan
- grey or black trousers, skirts or pinafore dresses.

Many children have returned to school in this uniform and they look very smart when they are wearing these.

We haven't specified footwear for our children on the website but going forwards, black school shoes or smart black trainers will be expected. If you have already purchased new footwear that does not adhere to this, please do not worry and go and buy more shoes, I just ask that next time shoes are needed you purchase something in keeping with our expectation.

For PE, again our website doesn't specify what children need to wear. We would ask that children have:

- the school PE t-shirt or a plain white t-shirt,

- a pair of black shorts and/ or a pair of plain (no logos please) black joggers.
- They will need to wear a pair of trainers too. These do not need to be a specific colour but must be suitable to do PE in.

Children will continue to come to school on PE days in their PE kit. In cooler weather, they can wear their school jumper or cardigan over the top of their t-shirt. PE kit is an area that needs some attention and it would be great to see our children looking as smart on PE days as they do in their daily uniform.

It may also be helpful to know that our PTA has a range of second hand school uniform in a wide range of sizes should you need any. Please do ask and we can help you out.

I will update you about Forest School attire in due course.

Attendance and Covid 19

You will all be aware that Covid is far from a distant memory and as a school we are working hard to ensure your children are as safe as possible. There are lots of coughs and colds going around at the moment and we are asking that if your child has any of the 3 main Covid symptoms:

- a temperature
- a continuous cough
- a loss of taste or smell

that you take them or arrange for them to have for a PCR test. I appreciate this can be a pain, especially when you think it's only a cold but for the benefit of our whole community, you are truly helping us. If you phone into the office and they ask you to do this, please appreciate they are working in the best interest of everyone. We of course want children in school and learning and attendance is a priority of the school but so is keeping our community safe.

Staffing

Those of you who have children in Bluebell class will have been contacted about the absence of Mr Gazzard. He has been rather unwell (not with Covid) at the start of term and has not been with us. We are of course missing him greatly as are the children and we wish him well as he makes a full recovery.

At this time, I have no further update about the continued absence of Mrs Helm. In her absence, I will continue to lead the Federation and wish her well as she too takes time to recover.

Events

We have a few events coming up at school that you may want to put in your diary:

Harvest Festival: Friday 1st October and Friday 8th October

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival this year in school. Over the next two weeks the wonderful Open the Book team will be supporting us with our annual Harvest Service.

As part of our vision of 'Reaching Beyond', we will be learning about the work of the charity Save the Children and how they have been working with children around the world during the pandemic to try and maintain their access to education and to help people to see how important education is.

We will be asking your children in the coming week to offer to do small jobs at home in order to raise funds for the charity. If you feel you can support this and make a small donation in exchange

for a spot of washing up, bed making or room tidying (to name but a few jobs), please can you send monies into school by Friday 15th October. We will keep you updated with how much we raise.

Photographer in School – Wednesday 6th October – We have the photographer in school all morning taking individual photos and family groups. These will be available to buy with proceeds going to School.

PTA AGM – Wednesday 6th October – time to be confirmed – In the school hall.

Foxglove Cake Sale: Friday 15th October.

PTA KS1 & Bluebells Disco and Talent show: Friday 22nd October 4pm – 5:15pm – in the school hall

PTA KS2 Movie Night: Friday 22nd October 6pm – 7:45pm – in the school hall

Parent Consultation Evenings (Y1 to Y6): Monday 8th November and Wednesday 10th November

We have decided to hold formal face to face parent consultations next term rather than our annual Bring Your Parents to School Evening as they allow us to control better the number of people in school at any one time. This feels more Covid safe and gives every parent a chance to meet with their child's class teacher and look at their child's books. You will be able to book your appointments through the office later this week. Please note these consultations are for Year 1 to Year 6 only, Bluebell Class will be having separate consultations at a later date

If you do not feel comfortable coming into school for a meeting, please let the office know and we will arrange a telephone call or Zoom meeting with you instead.

New to Reception September 2022 Open Mornings: Wednesday 17th November and Friday 19th November

If you know anyone who would like to apply for a place in our Reception class for next September, please do share this date on with them. A visit will need to be booked through the office. Again, this will be possible later this week.

Children in Need: Friday 19th November

Children are welcome to wear spots or non-school uniform to school on this day for a small donation. All donations will be given to Children in Need.

Flu Immunisations: Friday 17th December

Children from Reception to Year 6 may have their annual Flu immunisation on this day. Forms will be coming home in due course. Please complete and return to school.

Wishing you all a great week ahead.

Kindest regards

Natalie Frey

Acting Head Teacher