



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 reception classes well and where children have changed teacher they are embracing this transition and showing great maturity.

It has been a delight to do celebration worship with the school 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 more than 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 navy blue polo shirt
- school logo sweater or cardigan
- grey or black trousers, skirts or pinafore dresses.
- Grey or black tights (where worn)

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

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 office has a range of second hand school uniform, though our smaller sizes are rather depleted at present, should you need any. Please do ask and we can help you out.

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 families, 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 families safe.

Staffing

Those of you who have children in Kingfisher class have received a couple of letters from Miss Collins as her absence continues. Whilst there is no official timeline for her ongoing absence, we are all hoping that she will be rejoining us after half-term. In the meantime, she is planning with the supply staff and zooming in to teach groups of children daily. I appreciate this hasn't been an ideal start to term but we are striving together to make the best of a very difficult situation. As we receive further updates from Miss Collins we will of course keep you informed and I know you will want to join with me in wishing her partner Tim a speedy recovery from his surgery when he has it.

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.

Half Term

We finish for half term on Friday 22nd October and are back to school on Monday 1st November.

Events

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

Harvest Festival: Sunday 3rd October 12pm onwards on the village green and 4pm Church Service

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival in conjunction with our Church, St Saviours, this year.

As part of our vision of 'Diverse in Learning, we will be thinking about how we reduce, reuse and repair things in order to make a positive impact on the environment. There will be four tents on the

Millennium Green - two selling things, one information tent and one for repair (bring along a broken toy and see how it can be mended), also apple juicing at the Bell. The school will also be open from 12-4pm for people visit – particularly those in the community who have children starting school next September.

We are hoping that some of children will be able to join us at the service at 4pm in order to share a song and a prayer with our local community.

Parent Consultation Evenings: Tuesday 9th November and Thursday 11th 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.

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 Morning: Thursday 18th 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.

Wishing you all a great week ahead.

Kindest regards

Natalie Frey
Acting Executive Head Teacher