

Monthly Newsletter

October 2020.

What a Great Start to Our New Academic Year!

Dear Parents and Carers,

At times, I have struggled to keep up to speed with all of the information we have to digest from the government. Guidance can change at very short notice and it seems as though there is a new headline every day. I know that I can end up feeling a little confused.

With this in mind, I want to say thank you (again) for being patient with us whilst we put new routines in place. I like to think that I am giving you enough advanced warning and plenty of reminders and I appreciate that you are all doing your part.

I have been reminded again that children are very adaptable and that it can be harder for us as adults to adjust to something new. I have been especially pleased by how many children, even those in the younger year groups, are able to come into school on their own.

I've always taken pride in the quality of the communication that we send home and that we communicate honestly and on time. When I first started teaching, there would be the occasional paper copy of a letter and even rarer – a newsletter. It is hard to imagine that a school could operate in that way today and there have been many changes for the better. We are excited about using DOJO with parents and have some amazing plans in place for when we start to develop our ways to inform parents on how well their child is doing. If you haven't already, please follow the school on the 'Ourschoolapp' or on 'Class Dojos'.

I have to say thank you to parents and carers on how smart the children look in their PE kits. We were worried that it was a bit of a gamble when we decided to let the children wear their PE kits for the whole day but we are already seeing the benefits. We have saved lots of time that would have been spent on getting changed, there is less lost property and the children still look smart. We are being firm about insisting on the correct kit.

Since the start of the school year, Mr Dearlove and I have regularly visited every class to see how the children were settling back into school and what interesting things they are learning. I was so relieved to see that they had settled in quickly and were the same characteristic, well-behaved children that we saw in February. I think that it is a reflection of you as parents, us as staff and your children, that they have remembered the RESPECT values and have a positive attitude to learning.

Whatever the next few months have in store for us, even if it involves a bubble of children having to work from home, I am confident that we will make it a success. Although we are looking closely at our full school calendar, we are having to think carefully about whether things can go ahead as we intend. My gut feeling is that it will be a while before we can meet you all face to face or have any large groups of parents in school. I like to think that I see any problem as a challenge waiting for a solution so I am sure that there will be a way around each issue. Thanks again for your support and flexibility. We appreciate it!
Thank you,

Mr. S Pearson

Parent Consultations.

This year we are obviously having to change our usual formats of parent consultations due to Covid-19 measures and protocols.

For our first round we will be inviting parents to meet with their child's class teacher via Microsoft Teams. This will happen over a two week period and begins the first week after half term. The reasons for this are that meetings online can prove to be troublesome, so we felt that allowing sufficient space between meetings is the best course of action.

Please keep checking the app for further details which will arrive in due course.

To all parents: At this appointment, your child's class teacher will talk to you about the academic and personal progress that your child has made since the beginning of the academic year. They will also discuss any areas that your child needs to address and what we plan to do as a school to support them. We will also discuss how you can support your child at home. **Consultations are limited to ten minutes.**

We are looking forward to speaking to you all.



Class Dojos

We are driven this year to provide parents and carers with children's learning experiences and rewards. I know that some of you have already received notifications of your child's work in class.

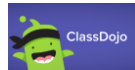
WE are still ironing out some of the creases with regards to how we can make this work effectively, though we're really pleased with what 'Dojos' can offer already.

If you haven't done so already, can I please encourage you to download the app and register to receive highlights of your child's achievements.

If you wish to be connected to your child's Class Dojo, please complete the Microsoft Form found on the school app

You can download the Class Dojo App from Google Play Store, the App Store or at

www.classdojo.com



Remote Learning Platforms



We are continually looking towards the horizon in terms of what we can offer our children and families with regards to remote learning.

At present Mr Dearlove is setting up our 'Google Classrooms' so that work in the class can be followed up at home online.

This is what is known as 'blended learning' and has become more and more prominent during the current pandemic.

Our intention is to provide a futuristic learning platform, so that our pupils are better prepared for their journey ahead.