

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents,

Autumn Term Newsletter (1)

### **Head Boy and Girl**

I am pleased to let you know that prefects have been chosen and from this group Joshua Martin has been chosen as Head Boy and Arabella Smith has been chosen as Head Girl for this academic year. We also have four House Captains and they are Isabelle Morriss, Robyn Kennedy, Hannah Clemens and Alex Allsop.

### **Before and After School**

I want to make all parents aware that the supervision of your children within the school grounds before and after school is the responsibility of parents/carers, and we ask that you ensure that your children are behaving sensibly and safely at these times, with due regard to the school rules and of the other people around them at this time.

### **Bikes and Scooters**

Can I remind all parents that bikes and scooters should not be ridden within the school grounds. If children have ridden these to school, they must dismount and walk them once inside the gates. This applies to older and younger siblings as well. As part of the building works, we will be having some new scooter pods for the parking of scooters, and I am sure the children will like these. This rule is there for the safety of everyone who comes into the grounds at the beginning and end of the school day, and I would appreciate your help in ensuring that your children keep to this rule.

### **Early Years Outdoor Area**

Many of you will have seen the changes that are beginning to happen in the Early Years Outdoor Area, including a lovely new canopy which is an 'outdoor classroom area'. Unfortunately, in the past, much of the equipment in this area has been damaged through misuse before and after school. I need to ask all parents to make sure that children do not play on any of the equipment within the whole of the outdoor area before and after school. This area is an important part of the provision for reception children, and we need your support in keeping this in good order. The area under the canopy is part of the classrooms, and although I appreciate it looks tempting as a shelter when it rains, I must ask you not to use it in this way.

Currently many of you have to walk through the area to get to your child's class, and so we are dependent on your support in keeping it in good order. I am aware that we have a spot by the gate that 'puddles' very quickly when it rains, but at the moment I do not have a solution that will deal with this. We are working on it.

### **Children walking home alone**

If you are going to allow your year 6 child to walk home alone as they begin to prepare for secondary school please will you ensure that you have spoken to the class teacher so that they are aware of this. I would expect all other younger pupils to be met by an adult. If this is not the case you will need to put this in writing to me (Mrs Witteridge) so that we have on record what your arrangements are, and can be sure that such arrangements are age appropriate and safe.

## **School Uniform**

Can I remind all parents that children should be wearing black school shoes and not trainers. The vast majority of our pupils are-thank you. However, we do have some children wearing trainers. Some children have school shoes in their bags, but hope to get away with not wearing them if we do not notice: Please remind your children that their trainers are just for PE.

I am also seeing a growing number of girls wearing very large fancy bows for school, which are really not appropriate for school uniform, even though they may be green. Whilst I understand that these are currently very fashionable, please can you restrict these for out of school wear and keep school hairbands and ribbon plain and simple.

## **PE and Earrings**

Although we have timetables for PE, and so children know routinely when they have PE, this can and does change at times for all sorts of reasons. Please make sure that your child's PE kit is therefore left at school so that it is always available. Teachers will prompt children to take it home for washing from time to time (usually at half terms). If you are asking your child to bring it home more regularly than this, please ensure that it is in school every day during the week.

As I know all parents are aware, earrings must be removed for PE and children have to be able to do this themselves. I know that some younger children find this hard, and parents send them to school on PE days without earrings in. If your child cannot remove their earrings, and PE is rearranged, they would then have to sit out. As I ask every term, please avoid having ears pierced at any time during the school year, as I know that earrings cannot be removed for 6 weeks as a minimum, and it can often be longer than this if there is any sign of infection or very sensitive ears: this results in a child missing PE for a long time, and it is a statutory part of the curriculum. The start of the summer holidays is really the only time when this can be done without impacting on education.

## **Inappropriate language in school**

We are seeing a significant increase in the use of swearing and other very inappropriate language in school at the moment, particularly in the KS2 playgrounds. The swearing includes some particularly offensive vocabulary. Other inappropriate language includes quite a number of sexually linked vocabulary that is also offensive (and often not understood by the children, and so there is limited awareness on their part as to just how inappropriate these words and phrases are in some cases). In talking to some of the older children, they have been telling us that they are merely repeating words and rhymes that they are watching on YouTube from 'Diss tracks'. Last night I looked at some of these myself, and I was horrified at the bad language that is within these. We are going to have to be very tough in school, and will be giving out detentions to try and put a stop to this. As parents, whilst I know how hard it is to monitor everything that your children are looking at on line, any support that you can give is appreciated.

Mrs J Witteridge

Headteacher

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