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10th September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

It has been a very special week welcoming the children back to school and welcoming all our new pupils and parents. All children have settled in really well and are now becoming familiar with their new classes and school routines.

School Timings

Please may I remind all concerned that the following school timings will apply from 6th September:

Year Group	Start time	Finish time
Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	8.45am	3.05pm.
Year 3 –Year 6	8.55am	3.15pm

We realise that this has increased the footfall of parents on site compared to when we had more staggered drop off and pick up times, but we have needed to move to this model to maximise the learning time for the children. To help matters, we ask that only one parent accompanies their child onto site. In addition, should your child be in Year 4 –Year 6 it may be an opportunity to allow them to enter site independently. There is always a member of staff on the gates and therefore once on the premises they will be safe. Furthermore, please note that the main gate on the High Street is available to children from all year groups, so parents may wish to park on the town centre and enter the site in that manner.

Disabled spaces at back and front gate

I have been asked to remind all concerned that the disabled spaces on the car parks are specifically for blue badge holders. We have a number of parents / carers who drop off / collect pupils. Please ensure that you do not use these spaces unless you have a disability.

New spelling programme in school - Pathways to Spell

The children will continue to focus on the importance of spelling words correctly and their knowledge of spelling patterns through a new teaching programme in school called 'Pathways to Spell'.

Through weekly spelling lessons (Year 1 to Year 6), Pathways to Spell will:

- Ensure the children become confident and competent spellers
- Enthuse and fascinate pupils about words and language
- Develop pupils spoken language skills
- Develop an engaging spelling environment across school

A change for you as parents is the removal of weekly spellings sent home to learn. Research suggests that children learn to spell words and use them in their independent writing with more confidence when they are a daily focus in the classroom and taught as part of the curriculum rather than a weekly test.

GoRead

This year we are going paperless and have invested in a superb online reading diary called **GoRead**. The children have all been registered on the program and allocated to the new classes. Their logins will be sent out via email to you together with instructions on how to set up the app on your own devices as well as a guide on how to use the program. At the year group meetings, the staff will dedicate some time to show you how the program works and answer any questions or queries you



may have about how to use GoRead. A power point presentation will also be added to the school website for those parents unable to make the meeting.

The GoRead program allows your children to make comments about their reading, they will be shown how to do this through their tablets in school. In order for you to make a comment about your child's reading, you can either log on to the website using your child's tablet or download the app onto your phone or other electronic device. Once logged in as a **Parent** (not Child) on GoRead, you will simply have to type in the school code which is: **06835** followed by your child's specific login code. There is no maximum number of devices you can be logged in at any one time for your child, so hopefully all members of the family can get involved if they wish to.

Wrap Around Care (High Street Hub)

This week we have relaunched the wrap around care provision. The morning sessions are led by Mrs Clarke and the after-school sessions by Mrs Davies. Together they have redesigned the small hall area to make it more appropriate for out of school provision and have developed an array of new activities to suit all children. Bookings for the Hub can be made online through School Money. The feedback from the children so far has been very pleasing, but staff are always open to new ideas and suggestions.

Welcome Meetings: Reminder

The staff will be running year group welcome meetings to inform you of the requirements for your child's year group. These will be held virtually online at the times below. During the meetings the staff will guide you regarding the requirements for the year. Further details will be distributed by each year group.

Date	Time	Year Group	Location/Virtual
Mon 13 th Sept	15:45-16:15	Year 2	Virtual
Mon 13 th Sept	16:30-17:00	Year 1	Virtual
Tues 14 th Sept	15:45-16:15	Year 5	Virtual
Weds 15 th Sept	15:45-16:15	Year 4	Virtual
Weds 15 th Sept	16:30- 17:00	Year 6	Virtual
Thurs 16 th Sept	15:45-16:15	Year 3	Virtual

Summer Achievements

During the summer we have been made aware through the local press and talking to some parents of a number of significant achievements by a number of our pupils. I am sure that there may be more that we don't know about, should this be the case please let your child's class teacher know so that we can help to celebrate what they have done.

Bobby W (Class Derwent)

Bobby (7) completed the three peak challenge during the summer with his dad to raise proceeds for the Mental Health Charity MIND. This involved them climbing to the peaks of Ben Nevis in Scotland, Scafell Pike in the Lake District and Snowdon in North Wales. This is a great achievement with the pair completing the challenge over the course of the hottest week of the year.



Ella M (Class Wye)

Ella is only six but she was determined to climb 1,085 metres up Mount Snowdon, the highest mountain in Wales to help fund a special disability pushchair for her step brother Harley. Ella, reached the summit with dad and doubled her £500 target, raising more than £1,000.

**Layla-May (Class Severn)**

Layla-May decided it was time for a change of hair style and had 33cm cut off which she donated to the Little Princess Trust. A very thoughtful and kind gesture to help others.

Clara T (Class Croco)

At the end of the summer term Clara T also had her hair cut for the Little Princess Trust and raised £460 for the charity. Again another lovely kind gesture.

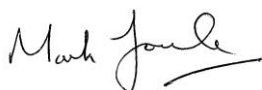


Well done to the aforementioned pupils on their achievement!

Uniform for September

Thank you for adhering to our uniform policy. The children have returned looking really smart and set for learning. We also appreciate the efforts that you have gone to, to provide suitable shoes in accordance with our uniform policy.

Kind regards



Mark Joule
Head teacher