

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer and have been able to enjoy some of the freedoms to visit family and friends who you have missed during the last 18 months.

Currently there are staff in school preparing the classrooms for the children coming back on **Thursday 2nd September**...it's so exciting that the children can sit around tables again and not be arranged in rows and that bubbles have gone so they can play outside with children who are not in their class too! We are really enjoying preparing for them returning.

I know I wrote to you in July to share our plans for the Autumn term, but I just wanted to write out again now that the start to term is imminent.

The School Day

We will no longer be having a staggered start to the school day however we are going to be cautious and say that for the time being *parents will not be allowed in the school building without a prior appointment.*

Year 2 to 6

The expectation will be that children in Year 2-6 will be collected from the playground at 8.50am by their class-teacher or T.A. Children will line up for their adult to collect them from the playground on the sound of the bell. Parents of younger children will be allowed in through the school gate to wait with their child until this time however we want to encourage year 5 and year 6 parents to remain off site at drop off and pick up from September. This has had huge benefits for supporting our older children to become more independent and high school ready.

A member of staff will be on the playground from 8:30am each day to supervise the children. Children arriving before this time will be charged for Breakfast Club.

Foundation Stage and Year 1

Children in Foundation Stage and Year 1 will use the front playground. We have found that the children are more settled when their parents drop them off to come into school independently, so we ask that you leave your children with the member of staff at the door and use the circular route to exit as this worked well during the summer term.

We will no longer have staggered finish times at the end of the school day for individual year groups, unless COVID dictates that they need to return. Instead, we will revert to our pre COVID finish time of 3:30pm for all classes. Please collect children from the playground and ensure that you socially distance as much as possible from those waiting around you.

Parking

Whilst better for the children's education and the smooth running of the school to have the school day back to its normal timings, we realise that this causes issues with parking. Please park responsibly, away from residents drives and not on the zigzag lines in front of school.

The village hall car park (behind Valetta Gardens) is a large one and only a short walk away from the school. Please allow time to park there.

Breakfast Club/ After School Club

Breakfast Club places will be unlimited now and will run Monday -Friday between 8:00am and the start of school at a cost of £2 per day. After School Club will take place between 3:30-5:00pm Monday – Thursday at a cost of £2:50 per day.

Please book on Parent Pay

School Meals

Unfortunately, there has been a price increase for school meals. From 2nd September a school dinner will go up to £2:34 per day. This is an increase of only 20p per week and I am sure you will agree that this is excellent value for money for a hot nutritious meal each day.

Uniform

Children must have full school uniform from September including black school shoes, blue sweatshirt or cardigan, white polo shirt and grey trousers or skirts. (Shirts and ties are compulsory for Year 5 and 6, please).

On PE days your children should continue coming into school in their school PE kit. But they must have *our* school PE kit. This is black shorts plain white T-shirt or T-shirt in house colour, leggings or track-suit bottoms. Plain, dark-coloured hoodie if cold.

A polite reminder please that neither trainers nor leggings are part of our school uniform and are not acceptable school-wear for those days when children do not have P.E. Thank you for your support for the new school year.

Details of when your children have P.E. will be shared on Seesaw or Class Dojo on Friday 3rd September once timetables have been finalised.

Backpack Blessing

Children will be able to use the cloakrooms again so they can bring school bags and packed-lunch boxes. In celebration of this, Rachel Riddler from Hatfield Church is going to lead a Backpack Blessing Assembly for us on Monday 6th September. This will be an occasion just for the children however we are planning some exciting events for parents to join us during the Autumn term: such as sports day on Friday 24th September and a Harvest Festival later in the term too.

Parents Evenings

Some changes which we made during the COVID restrictions; we have decided to keep. Parents Evenings at the end of this half term will continue to be online to avoid those long waits for you in school however we have now purchased an electronic system for booking on. More details to follow nearer the time.

COVID symptoms

We all want to get back to as normal a school life as possible however we do also need to be cautious. If your child or anyone in your household show any signs of COVID you MUST do a PCR test. These are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Whilst adults still need to self-isolate whilst waiting for a PCR result (test that is sent to a lab) children no longer have to stay away from school. If the result is negative, your child remains at school if not the child will need collecting and you need to work with NHS Track and Trace to identify close contacts. This is likely to be a small number of contacts most at risk of contracting the virus. These people (including children) will be asked to also take a PCR test.

I hope that you all manage to have a fun-filled bank holiday and get to enjoy some sunshine? We are looking ahead to the next school year with optimism and hope that COVID and its many challenges may be behind us, and that life can move on for us all.

Yours Faithfully,

Helen Acton- Principal