



4th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very fond and warm welcome back to you! It seems as though we were only waving goodbye to the last academic year five minutes ago and already the new one is upon us! I hope that you have all had a fantastic summer break and that you are looking forward to this new academic year as much as I am! Having spent the day today with all the staff, delivering our annual safeguarding training session, they are buzzing with excitement and are fired up and ready to begin giving their new classes high-quality, fun and engaging learning activities as we continue building on our standards of excellence. There are already lots of exciting things on the horizon – the launch of our new and refreshed ‘Pupil Parliament’ groups, impending residential trips for year 5 and year 6 and the unveiling of a new system for rewards related to behaviour and expectations to name just a few.

I would also like to welcome all our new children and families to the school community, whether that be for the very first time, or if you are joining us from another setting. Starting a new school can be a daunting experience for some, but please feel reassured that the staff will support all our new starters with kindness and care, both children and parents alike. If you haven’t had the opportunity already, may I suggest you have a quick look at your child’s class page on the school website under the ‘Children’ tab to acquaint yourselves with some of the routines and expectations for the forthcoming year.

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces have been vacated.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings, as highlighted from a survey first carried out in June 2020. Regular, statutory surveys continue to be carried out on an annual basis as we always prioritise the safety of your children and our staff, therefore, we continue to function as normal. We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the [Education Hub](#), which I hope offers reassurance.

We look forward to increasing good patterns of **attendance** this academic year and enhancing the school’s already strong and supportive ethos and culture around this. The first days back in September really matter. Evidence from a [recent Children’s Commissioner report](#) showed that children who miss days 2, 3 and 4 of the new term for unauthorised reasons had a predicted overall absence of almost 45%, or 31 days across the term, compared to children who missed days near the end of term, with a predicted overall absence of 20-30%. We are very keen as a school to work together to ensure parents have all the best possible information. There are resources here that we think you will find useful. This includes a reminder that the [NHS advises](#) that it is fine to send children to school with a minor cough or cold provided they don’t have a temperature and [what parents can do](#) if their child is facing attendance challenges.

[DfE external document template \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

In addition to this, **school uniform** plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging. These factors contribute to students' wellbeing, removing the additional pressures of deciding what to wear and the added stress of meeting the expectations of their peers. Please see our dedicated school website page [here](#), which lists our requirements inclusive of our PE kit, which can be worn on PE days. PE will commence this week, so if you are unsure which day/s your child is required to come to school in PE kit, please visit their class page on the school website. The children are very keen to ensure that they are as smart as possible and that uniform standards remain high, and our new rewards system will acknowledge this.

Please also note that the school's Breakfast Club will resume from 7.30am tomorrow. I will be running it this week as Mrs Marston has undergone important surgery over the summer holiday. She is making a very speedy recovery though and will be back in school next week, which is great news! Unfortunately, this does mean that I will be unable to welcome and catch up with you at the school gates this week. Mrs Farrington and Mrs Foster will be on hand in the mornings though to receive any important messages and guide the children to their new classrooms, where all the staff will be waiting in readiness to greet them and support them with the transition to their new routines.

Finally, it is important to remember and acknowledge that our communication channels are always open, and that all stakeholders agree to send and receive these with kindness. Our weekly newsletter will continue to provide you with all the relevant information you need, and our Twitter page will continue to give you that insight into the exciting things that are happening in school. More urgent messages and reminders will continue to be sent to you via text message, so please make sure your contact details are up to date with the school office.

I very much look forward to working alongside you over the forthcoming year and to welcoming the children back to school tomorrow!

Kindest regards,



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