

Tuesday 31st August 2021

Dear parents and carers,

**Start of the new School Year**



Everybody in school is really looking forward to seeing the children on Thursday 2nd September. Whilst the school has been a hive of industry throughout the summer holidays, it never feels the same without the hum of a school filled with children. National and local guidance is changing on a very regular basis and we are constantly updating and responding to new information to ensure the continued safety of our children, staff and parents.

**A few reminders and updates**

Assemblies

Whilst we have really missed our Friday Family assemblies where parents, carers and the children’s families are invited, we have now received further guidance from the local authority that recommends that this be avoided for the time being. This will be reviewed towards the end of the first half term.

Uniform

Any uniform that has been ordered can be collected on Wednesday 1st September from 10.30am from the main gate. Do remember to label everything! Uniform with the school’s logo on can be ordered on the school’s website and then paid for via Parent Pay.

Face Coverings

Whilst the government has removed the legal requirement to wear a face covering in most instances, I understand that there will be people within our school community who would feel safer wearing one. Any parent, child or member of staff who wishes to wear a face covering has our full support. If you are entering our school building, we request that you wear a face covering until all the school community feels safe enough to be without one. You will not have to wear one on the school playground, however, if infections continue to rise, this may well be something we have to reconsider.

Sanitising

Children and staff will continue to wash hands and sanitise regularly. We recognise that it is a powerful weapon to mitigate the transmission of Covid as well as other viruses. We will continue to make sure our cleaning regime is enhanced.

Ventilation

It is now well accepted that good ventilation can reduce airborne risks so we will continue to ensure that classrooms and corridors are well ventilated to limit the risk of an infection spreading. This is perhaps a strange request in the middle of summer, but please prepare your children for open windows during the cold weather.

Social Distancing

An important line of communication at school is talking to your child’s class teacher or teaching assistant on the playground, either before or after school. We are keen to facilitate this so please feel free to talk to our staff on the playground. In order to both mitigate the risk of infection and to prevent the staff from being identified as a close contact, we would appreciate you maintaining a social distance.

Extra-Curricular Clubs and Catch-up Sessions

We were pleased to be able to support over 110 children from Nursery – Year 6 with our first block of Catch-up sessions which ran for 10 weeks during the summer term. Our second block will be up and running by mid September.

Lots of staff are also in the process of organising a range of extra-curricular activities for the autumn term and beyond in addition to our daily After-School wrap around club. Please keep an eye out in September for more information.

PE Kits

Children will be able to wear their PE kits on the days when they have PE. We will inform you of your child’s class days for swimming and PE in the September Cale Green Journal. A reminder that school PE kit consists of a plain white t-shirt, black shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings and their black school hoodie. This will be reviewed towards the end of the first half term.

Dinners

Packed lunches and school dinners will now be eaten in the dining hall to keep classrooms as distinct places of learning. The tables will be regularly cleaned between each age phase: Early Years and Key Stage 1, then Lower Key Stage 2 and then Upper Key Stage 2. If your child is going into Year 3, please bear in mind that universal free school meals are not available for children in Key Stage 2 unless you qualify for free school meals. If you have not done so already, please inform the school office if this is the case. School dinners can be purchased on the school website and by paying on Parent Pay or you can send your child to school with a packed lunch. A copy of the September menu can now be found on the school website. Please also remember to send your child to school with a bottle of water.

Bikes and Scooters

Cale Green is a community of keen cyclists; we actively encourage children and their grown-ups to cycle, scoot or walk to school. In order to keep everyone safe, please remember to ask your child to get off and push their bike or scooter whilst on the playground. Having heard of some near misses, we would also encourage all riders to wear a helmet too. One of the bike shelters was becoming quite old and broken so has now been removed. There is still one on the sport’s section of the playground and a scooter pod can be found near the main entrance to school.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. I know that there is quite a lot to take in here, so if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to ask. You can also find more detailed information about uniforms, school dinners and our school day on our school website.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sarah McHugh