

Parent update Friday 16.10.2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you again for all your support during this first half term back after the lockdown. There have been lots changes to get used to and your cooperation and commitment to school is very much appreciated.

**Mental Health Awareness Day** – Thank you for your donations, we raised £211 for the suicide prevention charity, Papyrus UK.

**Parents' Evenings** – The zoom parent's evenings were successful, I am sure you realised that this was a new experience for us too, and that waiting at parent's evening is very hard to avoid in any circumstance. Any parents who didn't attend will receive a short email report today.

**Covid Measures** - After the holidays, we will continue with the same drop-off and pick up arrangements that we have been doing so far. As the weather gets colder children may bring a hat and gloves to school with them but these must be small enough to fit in their pockets or down their sleeves. We will be putting coat pegs in the classrooms from Y2-Y6 over the half term break.

**Nursery & Reception** – Please wear black joggers and trainers on Mondays for PE from now on. Children to wear school t-shirts and school jumper on top.

**Uniform** - At the start of September some parents provided their children with the wrong school footwear. In order to accommodate any financial difficulties that arose from this I said they could continue to wear them until half term. **After half-term any children wearing trainers with a sports logo or boots will be given pumps to wear on arrival at school.** Thank you for your cooperation.

Here is the reminder that went out on 8<sup>th</sup> September and again on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

“School uniform – there has been a great deal of discussion around this in the last week. Our school uniform policy has not changed, it states the children must wear black shoes, not boots or trainers. This has been communicated since last December via the school website, it has been sent home on the reverse of all school newsletters, via a link in our new normal leaflet and also clearly stated in the back to school video shared before school started. I don't think it could have been re-iterated more clearly. Unfortunately, it appears that no matter how many times a message is sent out, some families only take notice when a rule is put into action. Regardless of the pandemic, the start of the school year is the only logical time to do this. If there is a medical need for your child to wear boots then please provide a supporting letter from the relevant professional. Any families who have somehow missed the communications, need to replace boots and trainers for shoes before October half term.

From then on, any pupil coming to school in non-school uniform footwear will be asked to change into black pumps on arrival. These pumps will either be brand new or have been “quarantined.”

For info, I know some parents have been alarmed by the swapping of boots and trainers for pumps; in the majority of cases the children were put in brand new pumps bought by myself from Asda, (they are only £4). The others were put in pumps that had been "quarantined." Under no circumstances would I undermine all the hard work we have put in place to be covid compliant by putting pumps on children that weren't safe.

If parents are concerned that PE pumps aren't suitable for travelling to and from school on wet days, the pumps be may be kept in your child's tray for PE days and their child can wear their school shoes to and from school as normal."

Again "Apologies for the long paragraph about shoes and any upset caused. The majority of parents have read the policies / updates and their support of school standards is very much appreciated. If any parent is unsure or has a further question about this, please contact the office to make a telephone appointment to speak with me."

School will be closed now until Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, when we will open as usual. Please encourage your children to read as much as possible over the holidays to keep up the good progress they have made since returning to school in September.

I am sure you will join me in thanking all the staff here at school for their hard work and dedication to our children.

Wishing you all a happy and safe half term break,

Mrs Johnson