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Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It was a real pleasure to welcome back the children this morning, including several new families. We look forward to our new reception children starting next week.

### **COVID 19 restrictions**

We no longer have to keep the children in 'bubbles' but we are still maintaining the extra cleaning and handwashing routines to mitigate chances of infection.

Some organisational changes from last year stay the same:

- The one-way system around school
- The start and finish times for the school day; from 8:30am flexible start until register at 9:00am. At the end of the day KS2 children go home at 3:15, whilst KS1 can be collected a few minutes earlier between 3:05pm and 3:10pm.
- Split playtimes to reduce the number of children on the playground at once, though they can now use the whole playground and go on the climbing apparatus.

Some things are going back to how they were organised previously

- Lunches served 12:30 – 1:30pm in KS2 hall. If you need to take your child out of school for an appointment, please collect them either before/at 12:30pm or at/after 1:30pm and avoid lunchtime when you bring them back.

### **Sports Day winners' reward**

At the end of last term, we held our Sports Days for each year group. We totalled up the points scored, and Darwin House (Green) were the winners. This means that any child in Darwin House can wear 'mufti' to school tomorrow – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

### **Building work**

If you have walked past school in the holidays you would have seen the builders replacing the old lead guttering on the KS2 building. From Monday, they move onto the second phase of the project which is to replace the old flat roof sections on the KS2 building. The good news is that the replacement skylights have much improved ventilation with several of them able to be opened too.

The main impact of the building work is the loss of staff car parking spaces. We appreciate that this will have a knock-on effect, so have arranged for spaces to be available for staff in the village hall car park. As a result, there will be less car parking available for parents, and with the car park at the Working Mens' Club now closed, we strongly advise parents to walk to school, or park further away then walk. We apologise for the inconvenience and ask you to be mindful of the impact of this on local residents.

**Year 5 Pioneer Residential Trip meeting**

There is a meeting in school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 5:00pm in the KS2 hall for those going on the Pioneer residential trip. This is for parents only (maximum two per child) but you can bring your year 5 child if necessary. Please bring a pen with you to fill out some forms.

**School dates for this academic year**

Attached to this letter is a copy of the dates for this school year. We have planned 4 training days:

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

The date of the 5<sup>th</sup> day will be shared with you once additional staff training has been confirmed.

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee there is an extra Bank Holiday on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022. As this is during the May half term holiday, schools can arrange another day off instead. Therefore, the children will now finish the school year a day earlier on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022, giving extra time to book that holiday which we have all been waiting for!

We will continue to send out a weekly update on a Monday to remind you of events happening during the week and Mrs Thom (Family Link Worker) is on the exit gate every morning if you need any further information.

Here's hoping for a settled year when we can get back to enjoying being a whole school community again.

Kind regards

Julia Alison  
Head teacher