



Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to the start of a new academic year! The staff and I have been enjoying the return to a more normal start to school, beginning with being able to have all the children lining up together in the morning and starting a day with a whole school Collective Worship. For some children, this was a completely new experience, but one they quickly got used to and enjoyed. Every class I have been in over the last few days has been busy, purposeful, settled and happy – the children are really pleased to be with their friends again and have enjoyed playing together on the playground.

Thank you to our parents and carers who have responded and changed their routines to match the needs of the school in this ever changing period, we really appreciate your support with preparing your children well with all that they need for a day (book bag, water bottle, coat, etc.) It feels like we have been an agile partnership and, depending on the future, we have the reassurance of past experience in that the school will continue to operate whether open normally, working in bubbles or switching to remote learning on external advice – we can do it!

Our classroom routines are all set up and your class teacher will be providing information to you about your child's timetable, homework expectations and what the children will be covering in their learning this half term. Please could you help your child by putting in any changes of routine, messages for school or recording any reading practice (very important!) in the yellow communication books? This provides a smooth running system to keep everyone informed and allows your child to develop independence and responsibility. We would also appreciate any lunch money or returns for trips to be in sealed, named envelopes in your child's book bag. The school is still seeking to limit the numbers of visitors in school and would appreciate if parents limit their visits to the School Reception area for essential purposes only by sending message/envelopes in with their child.

We are focusing on settling children well in these early days and will be letting you know about any extra intervention/support groups we have planned in a couple of weeks. The children will not be formally assessed at the start of this term as we know the children's abilities well and their assessment information from the end of the last academic year will inform our practice for closing gaps and moving children onwards.

We are pleased to let you know that hot lunches will be offered to KS2 children from 6th September and a new menu will be sent out on Parentmail to help you and your child select their preferences each day

Please note the Dates for your Diary at the end of this newsletter – we have booked ahead within the school diary to reflect our normal school practice; however, there may be changes to how we run events or interact with our community in the future and these will be communicated with you as necessary. Our forthcoming Harvest Festival is intending to be held as a community event by celebrating in the Church on the Sunday – it will be a great opportunity for us all, school, Church, families and wider community to be together if we are able to.

It has good to see that our wonderful Hopscotch wrap around care service is already providing engaging sessions for families who need it – Mary Jane works closely with the school for risk assessment and practice matches provision in every classroom for handwashing, ventilation and cleaning. This level of practice is also mirrored for the after school clubs which will be on offer from 6th September – please look out for the information coming out soon.

As we move further into the term, please continue to keep an eye on your ParentMail emails – any new communications or advice from the government on Covid-19 will be sent out using this system. If you are not receiving any emails from school via ParentMail or are unsure if your details are correct, please do contact the School Office as soon as possible (**New Parents** - there is an activation link that must be selected by the parent in order for the account to work correctly).

Finally, we are looking forward to working closely with you this year, whether we are in school as normal or communicating through virtual means. We are very grateful for the support we receive from you as parents and carers, and also from PAFA who will be working to ensure that our whole school benefits from your continued support.

- Mrs. Willcocks



Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2021

(Please note - events may have to be held virtually – updates will be provided)

1 September	Brass Workshop with Mr Haigh (KS2)
2 September	PAFA Meeting – 8pm – Zoom meeting
28 September	Parent Workshop – Phonics – 4:00pm
3 October	11:00am Harvest Festival in Church
w/c 4 October	Reception Baseline Assessment week
w/c 11 October	Parents' Evenings – virtual/by phone
18-22 October	Half Term
12 November	Children in Need Day
14 November	Remembrance Service (Church) – 10:45am
15-19 November	National Anti-Bullying Week & National Road Safety Week
24 November	Open Event – for Parents of children for admission 2021
29 November –	
3 December	Phonics Screening week – Year 2 children
1 December	Blessing of the Tree & Decorations Day
5 December	Christingle Service in Church – 11:00am
7 & 8 December	Nativity – Joy & Peace Class (proposed)
8 December	Whole School Flu Immunisation
17 December	End of term – Service in Church 1:00pm
19 December	Journey to Bethlehem – around Billesdon with Church

END OF AUTUMN TERM

Forthcoming Dates - 2022:

4 January	School Open – Spring Term
14-18 February	Half Term
8 April	School Close – start of Easter Holiday
10 April	Palm Sunday
15 April	Good Friday
17 April	Easter Sunday
25 April	School Open – Summer Term
9 – 12 May	KS2 SATs week
30 May – 3 June	Half term
6 – 10 June	Phonics Screen week – Year 1 children
6 – 24 June	Multiplication Check screening window – Year 4 children
8 July	School Close – Summer Holidays

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