



PB/LL 20.07.21

September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you so much for all of your kind words and get well messages following my illness over the past few weeks, it was really kind of you to think of me and I am happy to report that I am now feeling much better.

Thank you also for the support you have shown to our school community over the past 18 months. The situation has been unprecedented and incredibly challenging but your support, positive responses and help to teach pupils at home have meant that, overall our children have not lost as much ground academically as they could have and you all played a huge part in this success. Well done!

We are so sad and sorry to have had to close our year 5 and 6 bubble at the very end of term. This is a decision that has disappointed so many but we had no choice and must follow the direction of the DFE and PHE. School is a very strange place and lacking that end of term "buzz" generated by our year 6 pupils at this time of year. We are determined not to let their time with us go without marking the occasion and so we shall be holding a special "leavers afternoon" event on Tuesday 27th July when we shall have a short leavers service, present bibles and year books and then have a bit of a party on the field to say farewell and thank you to our wonderful pupils as they move on to senior school.

In September we are all hoping for a much more settled and "normal" school year and as a result, many things will go back to how they were pre-pandemic. There is not a lot to change back and most things are "in-house" but there are one or two things I want to make you aware of.

Goodbye and Hello!

As always, there has been some movement in our staffing for the coming year so I will try to remember everything that has gone on!

Firstly, Mrs Edser has safely welcomed a beautiful baby girl. Huge congratulations to you from us all.

We all welcome Miss Sparks who will be joining us as our teacher in Zebra class.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Todman, Ms Janes and Mrs Thomas. We wish you all the best in your new adventures.

Mrs Nyland is moving out of the classroom and taking up a new role on our Bransgore ITT programme as a tutor so we will still see lots of her.

We also welcome some new teaching assistants with Mrs Sargent, Mrs Knight, Mrs Turner and Ms Tomlinson joining the team. I know that you will make them all feel really welcome.

Best of luck to everyone leaving us and welcome to all of our new staff.

PE Kit

Staff agree that pupils coming to school already dressed in PE kit has been a huge benefit in terms of time saved changing. This also reduces the amount of lost property.

Therefore we would like children to continue to come to school dressed in PE kit on their PE days.



This means that we shall no longer be asking children to wear plimsolls in school. Instead please could we ask that you buy your child a pair of plain black trainers with Velcro straps if they cannot do their own laces. Children should wear these trainers in on PE days.

Pupils should wear the coloured PE shirt, a school sweatshirt and royal blue "shadow stripe" shorts, all of which can be purchased from PMG school wear. Pupils may also wear tracksuit bottoms or leggings. These must be **plain** navy or black. Please do not send pupils to school in other coloured sportswear as we want them to look smart.

A separate letter will be sent out in September confirming the days of PE for each class and phase so please look out for this.

Start and Finish Times

On our return to school on Monday September 6th we shall revert back to all pupils arriving at the same time and there will be no "bubbles" and no staggered start or end to the school day.

This means that pupils in Jungle Team (EYFS/KS1) arrive at 8.40am and finish school at 3.15pm.

In Planet Team (KS2) pupils also arrive at 8.40am and finish school at 3.20pm.

Please help us to give your little one the best chance of success by ensuring that they arrive at school around 8.40am and no later than 8.55am when the gates and doors close. This is when our day begins and anything after this time will set pupils back. It takes time to put away books, reading bags, give in dinner choices etc. and it is worrying for children when they feel behind in these daily routines.

All pupils can enter the playground via the Foundation Gate or the Church Car Park Gate.

This will lead to a huge increase in traffic compared to what we have been used to so please can I implore you to walk to school if at all possible and, if you are going to drive, to park further away and walk in. Please drive near school with care and patience.

The school gates will be open in the morning and then from 3pm so parents/carers and children can wait safely on the front playground and not outside the gates.

Obviously, all the plans described in this letter assume that things will continue positively until September. All plans may be subject to change if the situation with the pandemic deteriorates.

Summer Learning

Teachers in Years 1 - 5 have set up Summer Learning for children in their current year groups on their Google Classroom. Lions and Tigers have some too which can be found on Tapestry.

This will be really useful to keep the children's skills and learning ticking over during the summer break.

This learning does not need to be handed in. Teachers will not be available via Gmail during the summer.



Reading

As parents, the best thing you can do for your children over the summer break is to encourage them to read and also to read to them. If your child reads for 10 minutes every day over the summer it will have a massive beneficial effect on how they re-connect with learning in September.

Please consider signing your child up for the Hampshire Library service Summer Reading Challenge 2021. Details can be found here: www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/kids-zone

The theme this year is "Wild World Heroes." It may also allow you ten minutes peace and quiet!

Meet the Teacher

On Thursday 22nd July, all pupils will spend a session with their new teacher, in their new class groups.

This will take place outdoors and socially distanced so that we can maintain the integrity of our phase bubbles. Pupils will have a chat with their new teacher, listen to a story or do an activity and get the opportunity to ask any questions they may have about their new class/phase.

School Uniform

Please could I ask that all pupils wear the standard school uniform. This looks really smart, gives us a sense of pride and belonging. We want the children to feel included and the uniform is often referred to as a way for us to identify as an individual within a greater whole. Please encourage your children to care for their uniform and be proud to wear it. Please ensure pupils have plain black school shoes. Pupils should have shoes with Velcro straps if they are unable to tie their own laces.

Precise details of current uniform expectations are available on our web site. If you have any questions please call the school office who are always happy to answer any questions.

Have a Lovely Summer!

Well, this has to be the longest, most complex and worrying academic years I have ever experienced and certainly the most challenging I have ever faced as a school leader. I can't pretend that I am not glad to see the back of it! However, it has taught me a great many lessons. We have a brilliant school and a fantastic community supporting it. We have wonderful staff who will go the extra mile for the good of the children and who have been the most brilliant support to me with their flexibility, kindness and determination that we should keep moving the school forward. We have supportive parents who do all they can to help and incredible children who never cease to amaze me with their kindness, hard work and resilience. They make our "Loving School" come to life. You should feel so proud of them all.

I hope that now, many people are vaccinated and if we all take our personal responsibilities seriously that we can start to see some normality return over the summer and that by September this all feels like a thing of the past.

I wish you all a long, lazy, sunny, relaxing and re-energising summer with your families, you have more than earned it. Whatever you do, wherever you go and whoever you go with, stay safe, stay well and appreciate time together as a family. It is the most precious gift to have time with those we love.

Have a wonderful summer everyone and see you on 6th September!

Mr Brown
Headteacher