

25.09.2020



Dear Parents and Carers

It's been so lovely having the children back in school. We had been missing them so much. We've all been very impressed with how quickly they've settled back and how well they've adapted to new routines and set ups. In appreciation of this we would like all children in Reception up to Year 6 to have a celebratory lunch on us, a letter has been sent out with further details.

The Autumn term is traditionally a very busy one for us in school but this year it is going to be a little different with not being able to welcome you into school as we normally would. Every year we write a School Development Plan to highlight the areas of our work which we will be focussing on during the academic year however, this is something else which needs to be a little different this year. We have written a Curriculum Recovery Plan and each year group is currently looking at where the children are in their learning and what they need to cover to stay on track. Work may look different from how it has been in the past but it is essential that we meet the needs of all the children.

We have made the decision we will be sending reading books home but we would ask that you and your child wash & sanitise your hands before and after reading the book.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to you all for your continued support and also for your flexibility at drop-off and pick-up times.

Morning Drop Offs Update

As we now start to approach the colder weather we have revised morning drop offs so that the children are not lining up getting cold and or wet. Therefore, we are introducing a 'soft start' to the day. From Monday 28th September the classroom doors will open at 8.45am so you can walk your child/ren to their class. They will be greeted at the door by their TA and the teacher will be in the classroom starting the day's learning. All doors will close at 9am so it gives a 15-minute window to enable children to enter the school safely. Any child arriving after 9am will have to come to the school office as they will be late. Years 5 and 6 routine remains the same.

Face Masks

We encourage all adults entering the school grounds to wear a face mask. This is part of our procedures to limit transmission of the virus. Please note that if you are wearing a face mask, it should cover both your nose and mouth, otherwise it is not effective. Children wearing masks should always have a small plastic bag to store it in, if they remove it.

Covid Update

As we move into the coughs and colds season, it is going to be really hard to know whether children (and adults) are displaying symptoms of Covid 19. Please refer to the latest guidance from the government regarding symptoms in children and make a decision on whether you think your child needs a test. We are very thorough about reducing risk at Thornhill but urge you to adhere to the following guidelines.

- Please wear a mask at drop off and pick up whilst on the school premises.
- Please only bring 1 person on site if possible
- Follow the government guidelines and only meet up with 6 or less people, inside and out.

DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE UNWELL.

- Get a test if you or your child presents with a temperature, cough and/or loss of sense of taste or smell.
- Do not visit the school site or send your child in until you have a negative result.
- As long as other members of the family do not have symptoms siblings can come to school while you wait for the result. If the result is positive you must then all isolate.

IF YOU HAVE A POSITIVE TEST RESULT NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY.

Flu Vaccines

Parents and carers of children in years 6 and below will receive a letter from the NHS reminding them that it is time for their child to receive their annual flu vaccination. The letter also provides details of where the vaccinations will take place and the need for parents and carers to provide consent before the vaccination can be administered.

We are being advised to encourage everyone to take part in this vaccination programme as it will help to diagnose COVID more quickly, knowing that the symptoms are similar to flu but vaccinated children are less likely to get flu. If you need to research the flu vaccine before deciding to consent, please use the next few weeks before we request consent.

ClassDojo

On Monday 28th September, you will receive a letter regarding ClassDojo. This is a new behaviour system that we will be using in school for children from Year 1 – 6. The letter will include your personal login details and instructions to use to download the ClassDojo app and follow your child's behaviour in real time via your smartphone. Please contact the school office if you have any problems with this.

Remote Learning – Back-up plan in the event of any type of lockdown

Thank you to the 110 families who completed our online questionnaire about online learning. This has been enormously helpful and has allowed us to design a way forward which will hopefully allow all children to continue learning in the event of a 'lockdown'. On Wednesday 30th September we will be sending out information about how we intend to continue educating your child if the school or any part of it were forced to 'lockdown' due to Covid 19. You will receive a letter explaining our three part approach and there will be a video posted via YouTube and put on the school website to explain everything that you need to know.

Applying for a place in Reception (EYFS)

You must apply for a place in Reception class for September 2021. Please be aware that a letter from Central Beds will be sent out by the end of October for you to apply for your child's place.

Applying for Secondary School

You must apply for secondary school places for September 2021 by 31st October 2020.

Applications can be made online at the following address:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/7/school_admissions_applications_for_2019/498/apply_for_a_secondary_school_place

Parking

It has been brought to our attention that parents are driving dangerously down Grove Road to do 3 point turns by the school gates. Please do not do three-point-turns in the road outside school or use the driveway in front of the gates to turn in the road. This is to ensure the safety of the children and parents as it is incredibly dangerous and you may not see a small child running across the back of you.

I would also like to remind parents that it is prohibited to park on the double yellow lines in front of the school. Double yellow lines mean **no waiting** at any time and there are no excuses for the majority of road users. The only exceptions are for disabled badge holders who are legally entitled to park up on the road where double yellows are painted. Parking on a double yellow can result in a £70 fine.

Christmas

While it seems ridiculously early to be thinking about Christmas, we do like to plan ahead! With all the current problems around getting together, we don't plan to have a performance this year.

However, each class will work on a short performance (drama scene, poems, songs) and we will create a celebratory video for you all– more details nearer the time!

Enjoy your weekend!

Mrs B Waite

Headteacher