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Parent Newsletter – Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe we have been back at school for three weeks! The weather has turned a little chillier and it might be time for you to start dressing your children in winter uniform; we usually change to winter uniform around the half term, but if the weather is colder and your children are feeling it you may want to consider warmer uniform, especially as we are keeping windows in the classrooms open to aid ventilation. For now, and up until half term you can choose what uniform is most suitable for the weather (we might still have another mini heatwave – wishful thinking!) and then from after half term we will all be in winter uniform.

Please don't forget coats! I saw a few children today without them and they are needed in school.

Covid 19 – information

If you are shopping and happen to put an extra pack of tissues or antibacterial wipes in your trolley, we would be very grateful to receive them. We are going through both like wildfire! Just send them in with your child to their teacher.

I sent a letter out earlier in the week regarding tiers of response to Covid-19 for schools. I know it was quite long but I hope you took the time to review it. To date we have had no positive tests, thank God. We will try our best to stay that way.

It is clear that many families nationally are suffering from additional financial restraint and hardship as so many incomes may be dependent on industries that are severely restricted. It is inevitable that this will have an impact on families in our school too. If your circumstances have changed and you feel you may be entitled to free school meals because of this you may wish to apply. We would encourage you to as this also increases the funding we receive in school. I attach a form with all the information and you can always enquire with Miss Middleton in the school office if you're unsure – email is best for this and this information always remains confidential.

NB – all pupils up to Y2 receive free school meals as part of the universal franchise. However, it is still worth applying as this affect support funding in school.

Secondary Transition

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend our virtual meeting this week. Don't forget I am available to advise and assist as best I can with the difficult task of applying for secondary schools. Please contact me if I can help. Closing date for secondary school applications is 31st October.

Google Classroom

We have been a week or so into using Google Classroom not to set work for the children. There have been a few teething problems in some areas, notably log-ins. The teachers have worked hard to develop their use of the site and this will still be a learning curve for a while, but thank you for embracing it. Obviously, Google Classroom will be most important if we have to close a bubble to self-isolate, so it's good to get the minor issues out of the way now. If for any reason you still are struggling with logging in, I'd like to know. I have referred a few queries to our IT support company and will continue to work on this.

Wednesday Word

I'm not doing any better at sending out the Wednesday word actually on a Wednesday. Perhaps we should start calling it the Friday Word! That's not so alliterative though. This week's Wednesday Word is attached to the newsletter.

The reflection I'd like to share with you today is a prayer that I first met while training to be a teacher (back when everything was hand wound) and it has always stayed with me. It speaks to teachers, I think, but also to all parents, who after all are the first and main educators of children:

One Hundred Years from now
It will not matter
What kind of car I drove,
What kind of house I lived in,
How much money was in my bank account
Nor what my clothes looked like.
But the world may be a better place because
I was important in the life of a child.

School Meals

From Monday we are serving the hot meals option to all pupils up to Year Two. A letter and menu have gone out to relevant year groups already. This is a step towards being able to offer this plated menu to all pupils. I'm sure you appreciate that the additional precautions that need to be taken related to social distancing and sanitization of the dining hall mean that we will take this gradually. For now, Junior classes will continue with the current arrangement. I must say I've been very impressed with the deli option offered by Nourish and I know that the children who have accessed it have been positive when I've asked them. We will see how the service goes next week and then continue our plans.

Stars of the week

In our virtual assembly this morning we said well done to the following stars of the week from each class.

Orange Class – Aadish & Ornella
Yellow Class – Tahlia & Sofia
Green Class – Una & Felix
Blue Class –Christi & Alice
Indigo Class – Matthew & Isabella
Amethyst Class – Hannah & Florence
Violet Class – Ted & Daniel M

Have a lovely weekend

Mr. Mooney

Attachments

If you are looking at this on the website, please find these documents on the Covid-19 section or as a separate document on the newsletter drop down.

- Wednesday word
 - Application form and information about Free School Meals
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