

Start as we mean to go on...



Dear Parents,

Last year was a strange hybrid of getting back to normal, having to make allowances because of covid as well as me getting to know the routines of the school. Uniform, attendance and daily routines were (apart from learning) the parts of school life most affected by covid restrictions .

Next academic year is, God willing, going to be as close to normal as one can expect at a primary school. I know many of you will be replenishing school equipment, buying uniform and making plans over the holidays so I thought it would be useful to have a couple of reminders about some key parts of school life that, if we get right at the beginning of the year, are much easier to maintain.







I apologise, in advance, for the slightly naggy, negative vibe to this communication but if we are clear about expectations at the beginning of the year it prevents constant little battles throughout the year both for us at school and you at home!

Uniform and Appearance






PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL ARE NAMED!

All pupils are expected to wear school uniform to school each day unless you have been told otherwise for special events.

Some uniform consists of:




-  Navy blue or dark grey uniform trousers (not leggings or tight fit), shorts, skirt or pinafore.
-  White polo shirt (available with the school logo but this is optional)
-  Navy blue sweatshirt or sweatshirt material cardigan. We ask that children do have at least one with the school logo on but understand that store bought versions may be necessary as spares. Please try to ensure these are sweatshirt rather than knitted version and are not hoodies.
-  Navy blue checked summer dresses, or the culotte playsuits, can be worn in terms 1, 5 and 6.
-  Black school shoes (not trainers or boots).
-  School branded fleeces and coats are available as additional items but not in place of a school jumper.

PE Kit:






-  Yellow crew neck t-shirt with school logo
-  Navy blue shorts, tracksuit bottoms (unbranded) or skort.
-  Plain navy (unbranded) zip up hoody
-  Drawstring bag (school logo versions are available but are not compulsory)
-  Black, navy or white trainers.

PE kit should be kept in school so that classes can do PE sessions on unplanned days too.

Other expectations:

-  Long hair (shoulder length or longer) must be tied up at school (regardless of gender) – this is for health and safety reasons (including preventing the spread of headlice) as well as practical reasons such as making it easier to lean over and write.
-  Hair ties and hairbands should ideally be school colours and not too big (e.g., no big bows or cat ears!).
-  No jewellery should be worn to school at all apart from plain, small earring studs (not hoops). Children should be able to remove these for PE lessons

Equipment

-  Children need a coat most days (apart from in heat waves!) as, unless it is torrential rain, we will go outside at playtime.
-  Sun hat during warm weather.
-  All children need a named water bottle, preferably with a spout or flip lid rather than a screw top lid, containing only water (no squash). Other drinks are permitted in lunchboxes (not fizzy though!).
-  Only book bags are permitted in Key Stage One – not rucksacks.
-  Children can bring a SMALL rucksack in Key Stage Two but please limit the size of these as corridor space is very limited in Years 3 and 4. A book bag is still sufficient most days in lower KS2.



Children in Key Stage 2 can bring in a small pencil case (at the discretion of the class teacher) BUT these need to be small enough to fit in the tray under their desk.



No toys (including footballs) should be brought into school.

Attendance

It is expected that children attend school every day of term unless they are too ill. If your child is off school, we ask that you ring the school office before 9am in the morning to leave a message. Emails or dojo messages may not be read before register is taken. Please tell us the reason for absence and how long you anticipate them being away.

Holidays in term time will not be authorised (unless there are exceptional circumstances). Requests for leave from school for reasons other than illness or medical appointments must be made to the headteacher in writing or via email. Class teachers or office staff cannot authorise such absences.

Absence will be authorised for the following:	Absences will NOT be authorised for the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - illness - medical or dental appointments (which should be made with least disruption to your child's learning and, where possible, after 3:30pm or during school holidays. We will ask for evidence of the appointment to be shown). - performing rights (with correct documentation) - examinations of dance, music or school entrance tests. - family bereavement - religious observances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - illness of a parent or sibling - persistent non-specific illness, e.g. 'poorly', 'not up to it' - oversleeping or being tired - inadequate clothing/uniform - confusion over school dates - holidays/day trips/long weekends - birthday or other family celebrations - visits to family abroad or family working abroad - surprise visits or trips booked without knowledge

Monitoring of attendance over the last couple of years has been interesting to say the least because of covid restrictions especially the need to isolate. Now that there are no longer those restrictions, we will be monitoring attendance as before. There will also be new expectations from the Department for Education in terms of authorised absences and penalty notices.

Whilst it may seem like a lot of fuss over a few days, analysis of schools' data has shown a close link between attendance and attainment.

School Day

Classroom doors open at 8:45am and the registers are taken at 8:55am. Children arriving after that time need to go in through the office and will be marked as late. Arriving after registers close (9:15am) is classed as an unauthorised absence.

Children and parents are welcome on site from 8:30am. Key Stage Two children (Years 3-6) can wait on the junior playground supervised by school staff. Children in Bramble and Honeysuckle Class must be closely supervised by their parents on the infant playground until they are collected by their teacher.

Pick up is at 3:15pm. Please make sure that your child knows which gate you will be collecting from. If a different person is going to be picking your child up, please get a message to their teacher. We will not let children go with other adults without prior arrangement. Only children in Years 5 & 6 can walk home without an adult (consent form needed).

No children (including siblings) should play on the play equipment before or after school.

Dogs are not permitted on the school site (including the playground).

No parents' cars are allowed on the drive between 8:25 – 9:00am and 3:00 – 3:30pm.

Thank you for all your support this year. Have a fabulous holiday everyone.

D Johnson

Miss Debbie Johnson
Headteacher