

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year. I would like to give a warm welcome to all our new families and children who started with us this September, please remember that if you ever have a problem come and share it with us and we will do our best to help both you and your child. My door is always open and it is best to try and sort things out as soon as possible rather than leaving them to become much bigger problems.

I hope you all had a wonderful break and enjoyed your rest!! It is so good to see all the children back many of them with a big smile on their face.

We have one new member of teaching staff joining our team this year, Mrs Hudson. She is teaching Class Iguanodon. I am sure you will give her a warm Keresforth welcome.

As many of you can see school is slowly growing in numbers and this means that school can be a very busy place at the start and end of the school day. We tried to reduce the problem in a morning last year by opening the doors at 8.35am, as this was successful it will continue , but can I remind parents school starts at 8.50am and parents should have left the classrooms and premises by this time unless waiting at the school office. Children arriving after 8.50am are late. Parents should not really need to take Key Stage 2 children into the classrooms unless they need to see/pass on a message to the class teacher, this could be done via a letter to teachers if possible.

School ends at 3.10pm for the reception class and 3.15pm for the rest of school. To try and ease congestion around the exit door, years 1 and 2 will be leaving first and the other classes will wait in the hall for the majority of children to disperse. It would also help that if you are collecting Key Stage 2 children only, if you either wait on the front playground or at the back of the parents collecting younger children. This will help both staff and children and would speed up the process at the end of the school day. Staff will be able to see and identify parents quickly and allow children to go and the younger ones would not be as frightened at leaving the building because there are so many adults. If there is no improvement in exiting school, we will be changing the way the school ends for everyone. If you need to come into school at the end of the school day please come through the front door and the office staff will help you and will get classroom teachers if you need to speak to them. This avoids two way traffic trying to get through the doors at a very busy time. Thank you for your continued support.

H. Otley

Attendance

The Department for Education notified all schools that from September 2015, a child whose attendance from school falls below 90% will be recorded as persistently absent. As a school we are monitored by Ofsted and the Education Welfare Service to ensure that attendance for all pupils is good or better than 96%. We are expected to monitor the attendance and lateness of all pupils, please be aware that letters will be sent to inform you when your child's attendance is below the national expectations or close to it and this will need to improve over the coming term. In the first instance this will be to inform you that we are closely monitoring your child's attendance. If we see no improvement or a pattern of absence occurs we will need to refer your child to the Education Welfare Service and this may possibly lead to school attendance panels and eventually a fine.

We understand that children become ill and are unable to attend school, and at these times and we fully accept this. If your child is ill we do not expect you to bring them into school, there may come a time though when appointment cards will be needed if your child is regularly absent due to illness.

If you do have any concerns regarding your child's attendance please feel free to come in and talk to either myself or Miss King.

PE

All children are expected to participate in all types of PE lessons in school.

Every child from year 1 onwards receives 2 hours of PE a week. During the fine weather one of these lessons is usually outside. Please can you ensure that your child has an appropriate PE kit in school for each lesson.

For the inside lesson each child needs a white t-shirt and black shorts. (Not joggers)

For the outside lesson a tracksuit/joggers may be worn, with appropriate footwear.

Can I also remind parents that the Local Authority policy states that children are not allowed to wear any form of jewellery for PE. This is for your child's safety. Please can you ensure that all earrings are out on PE days and swimming days, or that your child is able to remove these themselves before the lesson.

If you are thinking about having your child's ears pierced it is worth considering waiting until the school summer holidays to have them done. After 6 weeks we will expect your child to either take their own earrings out or not to come to school with them in.

Music Tuition

Tuition and instrument hire fees are now due for the Autumn term at a cost of £48 for tuition plus £15 if an instrument is hired. This needs to be paid by 29th Sept at the latest.

Milk

All milk ordering is done through the following web site www.schoolmilk.co.uk

This should be done in advance, if milk is ordered at the beginning of the week Mon/Tues or Wed am, milk will be delivered the week after on the Monday but if ordered Wed pm Thurs/Fri it will be the following week.

Diary Dates

7th September	Dinosaur Day and workshops throughout school
8th September	News reporter in Classes Velociraptor and Triceratops
12th September	Dinosaur Games and problem solving Year 1-6
14th September	Horizon CC in to speak to year 6 parents 9am in Class Velociraptor
15th September	Swimming starts for Year 3
18th September	Individual School Photos. (These are individual only PTA are organising family group photos, more information will follow.)
19th September	'Let's talk about it'. Anti-bullying theatre production for Key Stage 2
20th September	Class Diplodocus and Brachiosaurus 'Music Enterprise' Day
25th September	No crossing patrol am only
20th October	PTA Disco Year 1-6 6pm-7.30pm
21st October	Non uniform day 'Barnsley Food Bank Challenge'
27th October	Harvest celebration assembly 9am for Y1 to 6
27th October	Break up for Half Term
6th November	INSET day
7th November	School opens
8th November	Class Velociraptor Crucial Crew
9th November	Flu Vaccinations in school
14th November	Parents Evening
16th November	Parents Evening
24th November	PTA PJ film evening for year 1-4.
1st December	Christmas Fayre

