

St Nicholas CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Ms J Watson

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Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome back! I hope that you have all had a good holiday, whether you went away somewhere or stayed here. I would like to say a special welcome to all our new children and their families and to new members of staff. Miss Palamountain joins us as our new teacher in Ash class, Mrs Giles as a new TA in Acorns, Mrs Mortimer as a new TA and Miss Kearsley as a new lunch supervisor.

It was lovely to see all the children this morning, there were a few nervous and excited faces but the children all settled in very quickly. For a first day back, the weather was really against us, but they made it into school dry, in their very smart uniforms, but unfortunately, we did have a very wet lunchtime, so they were unable to get out and burn off their energy. Let's hope it dries up a bit for us.

Just a reminder at the start of the new year that we are a 'nut free' school as we have children with allergies to nuts, so please do think carefully about what goes in lunchboxes. We also have a child who has a touch allergy to both nuts and milk, which means if they touch any milk or milk-based product, they will then have an allergic reaction. This means that before going out to play and after eating everyone will need to wash their hands with soap, to try and minimise the risk of transmission. In addition, anyone spills any milk or milk-based product on their clothing we will require them to change out of it due to the high risk of contamination. We have reminded the children of these routines again and explained why we are doing them.

Lunchtimes are slightly different too, more for the older children. Lunchtime for the whole school will now be 12.00 noon – 1.00 pm. Acorns, Chestnuts and Ash will eat first at 12.00 noon and Acers and Oaks will go out to play. Once the younger children have eaten they will go out to play then Acers and Oaks will come in to the Hall and eat. In addition, we have a new hot food provider called Aspens. I know there have been a few teething problems, but we seem to be getting there. There is a bit more choice for the children and it is made freshly at Shillingstone and sent over to us. I did look very nice I have to say!

As you are aware from the letter that was sent out during the holidays and no doubt from the news, there are new attendance procedures now in place for all schools in England which are now statutory. I will send out the new school policy which contains all the procedures to you shortly and will put a new 'Attendance' section on the website too. The key headlines are:

Our school day begins at 8:45 am and ends at 3:15 pm

Children who arrive between 8:45 am and 8:50 am will be marked present

Our gates will close at 8:50 am, if a child arrives after this time, they must sign in at the school office and will be marked as late (L code).

- Our registers close at 9.00 am so if a child arrives after this time they will be marked as unauthorised late (U code). This also constitutes an authorised absence for the whole morning session.
- If a child is continually late (code U) then further action can now be taken.
- If your child is going to be absent please notify the school on each morning of absence and provide a specific reason for absence.
- It is now a requirement for a school to inform the local authority when a child has 15 days absence due to illness, cumulative or consecutive.

Please do read the policy for further details. As ever we understand that some children have complex issues, which can include longer term physical or mental health conditions and so it is important that we work with you to understand your child's needs and provide additional support if needed. Good attendance is linked to better life chances. As ever, please come and talk to us if you are having any problems/issues.

Please look out for this term's curriculum overview and class newsletter at the end of the week, these will also be posted on the website. The class newsletter from each teacher(s) which will give information about PE days, homework and routines etc.

Friday, 13th September will be our first Celebration Worship of the term so please feel free to join us at 8:50 am if you can. Parents will be notified if their child is receiving a certificate that day.

On behalf of all the staff we look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Yours sincerely

Jill Watson
Headteacher