

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! I hope that you have all had a good holiday, and for once we had some fantastic weather, so I hope you were able to make the most of it. I would like to say a special welcome to all our new children and their families and to new members of staff. Miss Hartland and Mrs Coleville join us as new teachers in Ash and Acers classes. Also, in baby news, Miss Palamountain gave birth to a baby boy on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.

It was lovely to see all the children on the first morning, there was a mixture of nervous and excited faces but the children all settled in very quickly and seemed to get back into school routines quite quickly.

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.

We have already sent out an attendance letter as it remains a high priority in schools following the statutory attendance procedures that were put in place for all schools in England last year. Our school's attendance policy can be found on our website under Attendance on the Parents tab. However, here is a reminder of the key headlines:

- Our school day begins at 8:45am and ends at 3:15pm
- Children who arrive between 8:45 and 8:50am will be marked present
- Our gates will close at 8:50, 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 9am and 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 12<sup>th</sup> September will be our first Celebration Worship of the term so please feel free to join us at 2:45pm 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