



### **HEAD TEACHERS LETTER**

Dear Parents/carers

I wish you a warm welcome back to school and hope you have had an enjoyable summer holiday. The children have settled back into school really well and have made an excellent start, including our new arrivals in Reception.

In response to feedback from several parents last year, we are making an effort to keep parents informed of what the children are learning about. In Reception, you will have access to your child's learning journey online and will be able to post comments and pictures of your own. You will also be invited in to key worker afternoons, reading cafes, phonics sessions and when your child is a 'focus child'.

This is an exciting year for us in key stage 1 as we continue to develop the school's curriculum. You should have already had some information about the project your child is working on this term and later in the term you will be invited in for the afternoon for children to share their learning with you and present what they have been working on. There will also be reading cafes and parents' evenings.

In key stage 1, home-school learning sheets will be posted on our website each week to inform you about that week's learning. If you require a paper copy, please ask your child's class teacher. Finally, if there is something your child would like to show you in the classroom, or if you would like to see their work, simply ask your child's class teacher and they will be happy for you to come in and look at the end of the day. We have to balance site security and developing children's independence, but this does not mean parents are not welcome in school. For any parents who are unable to get in during the school day, you can phone or email the school to speak to us or arrange an appointment. Please don't wait until parents' evenings to raise any concerns.

You will have noticed we have had new fencing put in at the front and back of the school. The new fencing on the playground makes the site more secure, as the previous fence was not very high. The old fence has not been removed as it belongs to the town council and is not ours. The fences at the front of the school have been installed to make the outside area secure, so that children are able to access it throughout the day. This is necessary to make maximum use of the little outside space we have on site and in order to develop our curriculum.

For Turtles, it allows them to have much more outside space. For Year 1, it has enabled them to offer a wider range of activities and have a better transition from the foundation stage to the key stage 1 curriculum. I understand there has been some confusion around the gates opening for parents and I apologise for this. Some of you have raised concerns about access and we have also taken that on board. To clarify: the gates in the wooden fences will now stay closed in the morning as Turtles class need to access the outside from 8.30, so Year 1 parents will all need to enter and leave via the metal gate in the alley. At the end of the day, Turtles class will have gone home so the wooden gates will be open, allowing Year 1 parents to enter and leave from either end. We will continue to monitor the access to the front of the building and will review it as necessary.

Thank you for your ongoing support, I hope the coming year will be a productive one for us all.

Rob Edwards

### Water Bottles

Please can we remind you that the children are only allowed water in their classroom bottles during the day and no squash. Please could we also ask that drinks bottles are not put inside book bags - we are getting a few leakages!

Thank You

### Hot Dinners

Everyone will be ordered a standard hot dinner unless they have brought in a home packed lunch. If you would like your child to have a jacket potato or the vegetarian option, you will need to go to the school office and complete a menu order form. All sauces e.g Korma , BBQ, Tomato etc are served on the side and not over the meal.



### Bikes and scooters

Please could we remind parents that children on bikes, scooters or similar are not allowed to ride them in the playground at the start and end of the school day. Please make sure they are walked in once they enter the playground, as it gets very busy and we have had small children injured in this way in the past.

### Reading cafes – Sharing Assemblies

This term we will be holding reading cafes for year 1 and year 2 in the first part of the term and sharing assemblies in the second part of term.

**Reading Cafes –** Your children will invite you to come into school to enjoy a story read to you and your child's class either by the staff or a visiting reader. This will be followed by an activity planned by the staff for you to enjoy with your child.

This is a lovely opportunity to spend time with your child in school learning and having fun together. The cafes have been a huge success so far and your children really do look forward to seeing you there.

**Sharing Assembly –** In year one and year two, your children will invite you in to share some of the work they have been doing this term. We are doing class projects that last for a term now. The class will present some of the work they have done and explain it to you. You will then have time to spend with your child looking at their individual work and discussing it with them.



### Dogs

Please can we make all parents/carers aware that dogs are not permitted on the school grounds. Can we also ask that if you tie your dog up to the gates/fence that it does not impede children's access to the school. Not only are some children afraid of dogs but we also have children that are allergic to them.

Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.



### Sickness

Please can you inform the school if your child will be absent from school by 10am.

The school has a 24hr answering machine for reporting a child's absence, call 429001 option 1.

If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea they need to be clear for 48 hours before returning to school.

## Individual school Photos

28<sup>th</sup> April



### Wellies!

Reception and Year one.

If your child is in Reception or Year one, please can you bring in a pair of **NAMED** wellies to be left at school.



### Car parking.

Please can we ask anyone coming to school by car to be courteous to our neighbours on Recreation Ground Road. We have had complaints advising us that parents have parked in front of their drives and on one occasion on their drive. There is a car park at the end of the road near the library on the recreation ground with a nice walk through the recreation ground to school off the road.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

### Please name it!!!

Please can we ask all Parents and Carers to name every piece of item that comes into school especially coats and as the cold weather approaches hats, gloves and scarfs.

We often have children with the same style of clothing and some children that just pick up the first coat they find.

### Reading Books

Reading regularly with your children makes a huge difference. Please try to read at least 3 times a week. Let us know if they enjoyed it; which words they sounded out really well; or if they struggled, by making comments in their reading record log. If you have nothing particular to comment on please sign the diary to confirm they have read to you.

### PE Kits

Please can we ask that all children in Year 1 and Year 2 have a PE kit with the following items that remains in school.

**Shorts, T-Shirt, Trainers, Socks, Tracksuit bottoms, Sweatshirt/Zipped hoodie.**

Please **No Skorts** for girls as they get caught on apparatus.

### Home Packed Lunch

If you send your child in with a packed lunch please can we ask you to be realistic about what they can eat. We do encourage them to eat what is sent but any uneaten food is left in lunch boxes so that you are aware of what they have eaten.







Dates for Diary	
<b>September</b>	
24 <sup>th</sup>	Macmillan coffee morning (Friends event)
<b>October</b>	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Zebras Reading Cafe
7 <sup>th</sup>	Llamas Reading Cafe
13 <sup>th</sup>	Lions Reading Cafe
14 <sup>th</sup>	Koalas Reading Café
21 <sup>st</sup>	Halloween Party (Friends event) Last day of Half term
<b>November</b>	
10 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 1 and Yr 2 Parents evening
11 <sup>th</sup>	Yr 1 and Yr 2 Parents evening
13 <sup>th</sup>	Children in need day- details to follow
17 <sup>th</sup>	Individual Photos
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Llamas Sharing Assembly
24 <sup>th</sup>	Pandas Reading Café (AM)
24 <sup>th</sup>	Zebras Sharing Assembly (PM)
25 <sup>th</sup>	Koalas Sharing Assembly
26 <sup>th</sup>	Tigers Reading Café(AM)
26 <sup>th</sup>	Lions Sharing Assembly(PM)
<b>December</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Presents (Friends event)
8 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch
11 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Fair (Friends event)
15 <sup>th</sup>	Y1 &Y2 Christmas Play (AM &PM)
16 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Christmas Play (Am &PM)
18 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of Term