

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is lovely to see all the children back again, bounding and skipping enthusiastically into school! Their resilience and excellent learning behaviours are really shining through and, hopefully, if we can have a full seven weeks of having school fully operational, then we will begin to see children catching up to their pre-covid-19 levels.

Conversely, it's with a heavy heart that I feel I must alert you all to a racially provoked attacked that happened to one of our student teachers. Earlier this week, after leaving school for the day, one of our student teachers was verbally and physically attacked as she boarded a bus on Half Moon Lane. Physically, the young woman concerned is unharmed but emotionally she is very shaken up and, whilst we hope that she will be able to return to us, at the moment, this is not guaranteed.

Putting aside my own initial reaction of anger and disappointment, I wonder how we as a community can stand up to this: I recognise that we are not responsible for the behaviour of people outside the school – however, this happened in our locality to a member of our community. How do we ensure that she feels enabled to return to us and, in turn, how do we send the message that this type of abusive behaviour towards **anyone** is totally unacceptable and we, as a school, stand firmly against it?

Winter

Winter certainly appears to have reared its beautiful face and with that may I remind you the school building is not as warm as it usually is, so warmer clothing may be necessary. We suggest that thermals would be an excellent starting place (the adults are already there). We still have a few children who have forgotten to bring in their slippers (or indoor shoes), please can ALL children have them at school now.

Winter also means that it is darker in the evenings, if you are picking your child up from afterschool care - can we remind you than you enter on the left hand side of the vehicle gate - please can we queue using the chevrons to allow for social distancing and leave via the right hand lane.

Snacks

I wrote previously about having healthy snacks at school, we are now having to ask children to take home their snacks that are not healthy. To reiterate, crisps of any variety, chocolate, biscuits, sweets and anything but water to drink are not allowed at school. The school always has fruits and vegetables for the children to help themselves to.

Home Learning

All home learning has either been sent out or uploaded onto Google Classroom. We would really like all children to be involved with this so that by the end of term they can bring in (or upload) their work. The idea of home learning is that as a family you can choose the activities that interest your child and have the time to plan to do them.

Can we also remind you that everyday your child should bring home their reading book and record card/book. This needs to be signed so that children can work towards their reading rewards and, obviously, improve their reading skills.

St Martins Day

St Martins Day is on the 11th November and we encourage all the children to make their own robust lanterns and to hang them on our green fences. Please take pictures of your child with their lanterns and we can post them on Twitter. For more information on St Martin's Day, please see the attached PDF file.

In conjunction with this, we will also be participating in Wrap Up London: where we will be collecting winter coats to donate to those who need them over the colder months. If you wish to know more, please visit: <https://wrauplaondon.org.uk>

Volunteering

We have been very lucky over the last two weeks to have had a special volunteer, Mr Martin Keppler (godparent of two of our children), in our school, as you will see when it's finished, he has been working flat out to transform our new library space. In light of his stellar efforts and given that Martin has done this purely as an altruistic endeavour, we are breaking our own rule about advertising businesses (on this occasion only) to highlight that

Martin makes and sells beautifully constructed, hand-made, colourful face masks for use during this pandemic. If you would like cost effective, unique masks for you and your family, please see the attached poster.

We are also in need a volunteer in a Year 1 classroom to help with the delivery of the play based curriculum. They would work with small groups of children supporting them with their learning. We need someone from 9-11am Mondays -Thursdays for the rest of this term. If you're interested, please contact me.

Have a wonderful weekend and we look to another successful week from Monday.

Regards,

Jo.