



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear parents,

Welcome back! What a great start to the year we have had: the children have come back ready to learn and it has been lovely to see their happy, smiling faces coming through the gate each morning.

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club runs from 8am and all children are welcome to attend. There is no requirement to book in advance. Because of the new structure for the start of the day, breakfast will stop being served at 8.30am. The cost is 20p per child per day. Pupils who received free school meals are not required to pay.

### **Meet the Teacher**

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September from 3.25 – 3.45pm we will be running drop in sessions for Year 1-6 to give you an opportunity to come into school with your child, see their classroom and meet their new teacher. No appointments are necessary. Parents of pupils in Years 1 and 2 should enter through the classrooms. Parents of pupils in Years 3-6 should enter through the drama room. We look forward to seeing lots of you popping to classes on Thursday.

### **Year 6 Secondary Selection Test**

Year 6 pupils will take the secondary selection exam this week. On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> they will take the practice paper and will bring these papers home, unmarked. On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September they will take the assessment paper. All children will automatically sit the test unless we are notified in writing that you do not wish your child to do so. You may notify us of your choice up to the morning on the test on Thursday.

### **Celebration Assemblies**

Celebration assemblies will be every Friday afternoon from 2.45pm – 3.15pm. All parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are welcome to attend. Entry is through the drama room door. Children in reception will not attend celebration assemblies for at least the first half term.

### **Swimming**

Once again we are able to run swimming lessons for children in the Years 3, 4 and 5. Each class will have a term of swimming at Chesham Leisure Centre, beginning with Year 5 on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Please make sure your child brings their swimming kit to school with them each week. All children are required to participate in swimming unless they have a letter from their doctor.

### **PE Lessons**

This year, pupils will have 2 PE lessons per week. Please make sure that your child has their PE kit in school all week with the correct PE kit, including footwear. All children are required to participate in PE lessons and having the right kit is important for to keep children safe. Pupils

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need to have a purple t-shirt, black shorts and plimsolls. More information on PE can be found [HERE](#).

### **Restore Hope trips**

The trips to Restore Hope in Latimer Park begin on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September with Years 3 and 4. Years 5 and 6 will go on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September and Years 1 and 2 and Reception will go on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Please make sure you have completed and returned the permission slip before the trip. There is an exciting itinerary planned and I am sure that all children will have a fantastic time.

### **Absence procedure**

If your child is absent from school please notify the school office by 9.15am. Government guidance requires us to act on any unexplained absence which may involve other authorities so it is vital that we know if your child will not be in school. If a child is absent from school for an extended period without any explanation, we are required to notify the local authority's Children Missing from Education team and your child may lose their school place.

### **Term Time Holidays**

Unfortunately, we have significant number of children who are absent from school due to holidays during term time. Any absence from school but particularly one over an extended period has a negative effect on children's learning and progress. Missing large chunks of learning means that children have gaps in their understanding which places them at a disadvantage. Returning to school after a holiday often leads to children feeling left out and unable to fully join in with a sequence of activities.

Any requests for holidays during term time will be unauthorised and may result in a fine from the local authority: the current cost is £60 per child per parent. In addition, if a child already has low attendance, it may trigger further fines for non-attendance.

I look forward to seeing lots of parents for the Meet the Teacher drop in session on Thursday.

Yours sincerely

Julie-Ann Swaysland  
Headteacher

