Friday 2nd October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I can hardly believe that we are in October already. We have been very busy in school assessing all of the children to check for any gaps in their learning due to the COVID Lockdown.

Once this data has been analysed we will be putting in place a Catch Up programme, which will enable us to fill any gaps as quickly as possible. For many of our children we have seen a positive picture, showing all of the hard work completed at home, having a significant impact on sustainable attainment.

Our Catch Up programme will be a combination of different strategies which include additional Maths and English lessons throughout the week, small group interventions and targeted, out of school hours, lessons for specific children. We will also be making sure that we continue to offer our children a broad and balanced curriculum at all times.

Now that the children have settled into their school routine, it is important that we make sure that we do not become complacent and remember that the COVID virus is still very much a threat. Social distancing and hand washing are still vital. In school, we are still making sure that the children are trying hard to use social distancing, especially our older children, and COVID safe bubbles are maintained. I would ask you as parents to remind your children of these rules and talk through the school’s Behaviour Policy that is attached to this letter. Some of our children have become complacent. It is imperative that we as adults set the example so that our children get clear messages. Incidents where children are deliberately disregarding the rules will be dealt with seriously.

**Drop off and Pick up**

Drop off and pick up times are working really well and again I thank parents and carers for assisting with the smooth running of this. Could I please ask if any messages need to be given to the teacher that a phone call is made to the office? This message will then be given directly to the teacher. It is very hard for staff at the gate to hold a number of messages in their head and there could be a risk of a message not being delivered or not being correctly relayed to the teacher.

Could I also remind parents that if your child is going home with a friend or a different adult then usual that you please inform the office? You must not send a message with your child unless it is in the form of a written letter.

**Hot Lunches**

Hot lunches were reintroduced last week and were very popular. We are hoping that after half term we may be able to introduce a second day for each year group.

**Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club reopened again last week but unfortunately, numbers were very low. This is very concerning because if we cannot increase the numbers the club will not be able to run. Clubs need to be financially sustainable especially in the current climate and if parents do not support them then Pacesetters will be unable to afford to pay the coaches.

**Uniform**

I would expect by now for all children to have full uniform. Children should not be coming into school wearing trainers unless they have been asked by their teacher to come dressed in their PE kit.

Now the colder weather is upon us please provide your child with a coat for break times and a jumper. Windows and doors are kept open in school to ensure that classrooms are well ventilated. This does mean that the classroom can sometimes get cold. We will allow your child to bring an extra **named** plain fleece or sweater to keep on their peg in case they become cold in the classroom. (Nothing brightly coloured please). School fleeces can be purchased from Marks and Spencer’s website. [https://www.mandsyourschooluniform.com//m-s-uniform/uniform-by-school/bedfordshire-buckinghamshire-northamptonshire/old-stratford-primary-school/5637146884.c](https://www.mandsyourschooluniform.com/m-s-uniform/uniform-by-school/bedfordshire-buckinghamshire-northamptonshire/old-stratford-primary-school/5637146884.c)

**Attendance**

After an initial, few weeks of colds and temperatures most children are now back in school and our whole school attendance is good. However, we have had a number of parents asking to pick their children up early at the end of the school day for a number of reasons, which all could be avoidable. Please remember that this is very disruptive for your child’s learning and the teachers that are delivering the lessons. Lessons run all the way to the end of the day and with teachers working hard to fill unavoidable gaps, every minute is crucial.

We have also had a number of parents asking for holidays. This is totally unacceptable especially with regards to the amount of education children have already missed during this challenging period. Holidays will not be authorised and fines will be issued if necessary. Please be aware that the Trust’s policy on this matter is that if a child has more than 5 unauthorised days a penalty will be enforced. Lateness and leaving early is also considered unauthorised unless in exceptional circumstances.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sarbutts