 Thursday 15th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

With half term approaching it is always good to look back and reflect on the achievements made so far this school year.

It has been a strange start to a new year and one we are all still adjusting to. There have been many changes and restrictions that we have all had to adapt to in order to maintain a safe environment for everybody. We have been able to reintroduce Breakfast Club and after school sports clubs successfully and the children are now able to access a hot school lunch on an allocated day. The school has remained COVID free and this is down to relatively low cases in the area, careful planning and everybody working together to follow the guidance in place. Thank you to everybody for making this happen.

After half term (week commencing 2nd October), we will be making some small changes to the drop off and pick up times for **Reception, Years 1, 2 and Year 4** to bring them more in line with the normal school day. Years 3, 5 and 6 will remain the same. Please see below for the adjusted times. Please remember the importance of arriving at the gate at the correct time. This helps ease large groups gathering and assists us with keeping year group bubbles separate, which is key to keeping the school open if there ever was to be a COVID case in school.

Arriving too early disrupts other year groups, drop off, and pick up times and mixes year groups which we work hard to keep separate each day.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year group** | **Gate** | **Door** | **Drop off time** | **Pick up time** |
| EYFS | EYFS Gate ( Car Park) | External EYFS | **8.40 am** | 3.20 pm |
| Year 1 | External Year 1 | **8.50 am** | 3.30 pm |
| Year 2 | Main Front Gate  (Willow Grove) | External Y2 Door | **8.50 am** | 3.30 pm |
| Year 4 | Side door at front side | **9.00 am** | 3.40 pm |
| Year 3 | Back Gate (Dickens Drive) | Hall door | 8.40 am | 3.20 pm |
| Year 5 | External Y5 Door | 8.50 am | 3.30 pm |
| Year 6 | External Y6 Door | 9.00 am | 3.40 pm |

The children have been working incredibly hard over the past few weeks, enthusiastically embracing the challenge of extra catch up sessions squeezed into the timetable to make up for time missed during the Lockdown.

The staff have also been working hard, analysing where gaps are and designing focused catch up programmes for children to access swiftly to get them back on track pre lockdown.

**Intervention Programmes**

We endeavour to provide every child with the best opportunities to succeed in their learning. We will do our very best to overcome some of the challenges that the current COVID situation has created and provide quality teaching to ensure that every child reaches their true potential regardless of the National or any local lockdown enforced in the past or in the future. We aim to do this through targeted support from teaching assistants and teachers both within and outside the classroom and within and outside the normal school day. Some of our first targeted support, outside of the normal school day, will take place over the half term period.

**Who is it aimed at?**

ANY CHILD who may have shown a misunderstanding on an aspect of learning from their previous year group therefore would benefit from revisiting or re learning.

**Does this mean my child has fallen behind?**

NO. Most children need reinforcement of concepts but due to the vast amount of schooling missed, we feel that your child may not reach their full potential if they do not receive a short burst of additional support.

**Who will be running the sessions?**

Our dedicated team of teachers will be running the sessions. Your child will know their teacher and the teacher will know the focused input that is needed to help your child progress quickly.

**Who makes the decision as to which children are chosen?**

The Class Teacher, in consultation with Mrs Sarbutts.

**What evidence is used to choose the children?**

Class performance over the half term in the main; in addition, results from baseline assessments carried out on the children’s return to school in September.

**How many children will be grouped together?**

A group of 5-10 children are chosen for each support group, who have shown the same misunderstanding and will therefore benefit from the same intervention.

**How will I know if my child has been selected for targeted support over half term?**

You will receive a notification by letter on ParentMail outlining the type of intervention your child will receive (Maths or Literacy); the day and time of the session; the name of the teacher who will be delivering the session.

**What do I do once I’ve received the notification letter containing the information?**

You need to fill in the form giving consent for your child to attend, and acknowledging the requirement to attend ALL sessions listed and be on time for each one.

**Do I need to pay for the session?**

NO – all expenses will be met by the school, we are therefore determined that money and staff time is not wasted through lack of attendance.

**Does my child have to attend if they are selected?**

NO but we would strongly advise that you consider the opportunity for your child carefully. None of these decisions have been made lightly and with time being precious in these difficult times there may not be another opportunity to get such quality support.

**How can I help as a parent/carer?**

It is vital that parents/carers and child view these support sessions positively if progress is to be made. If your child is offered the opportunity for extra-reinforced learning, free of charge, please speak to them positively so that they come mentally prepared for each session. Sessions will be focused but fun. Children will not need to wear their school uniform but come dressed in appropriate clothing to enable them to play outside when they have a short break from learning.

**Parent Consultations**

Usually at this time of year, we would hold Parents Evenings, giving you a chance to meet with your child’s teacher and discuss how they have settled in. Unfortunately, due to the current circumstances we are unable to hold face-to-face meetings so we therefore endeavour to conduct these meetings by telephone call instead. Further details on when and how to book your appointment will be sent out after the half term break.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sarbutts