Tuesday 13th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of term is now approaching rapidly, so I wanted to let you know about a couple of key dates for your diaries and some of our end of term arrangements. In this challenging year we also wanted to take this opportunity to thank our whole school community for their kindness support and understanding.

**Covid Update**

Unfortunately, we needed to close one of our class bubbles this term. However, we are pleased to report that our swift action seems to have ensured that there was no need to close multiple classes. We would like to thank all parents for their cooperation during our recent staff shortages, when staff have needed to self-isolate. We understand your frustration in these difficult times, and we really appreciate all of your support.

**Transition Day**

Last week, children from each year group moved up to their new classes with their new teachers. The day was a great success with children enjoying activities and showing lots of enthusiasm for their September classes. Transition is such an important activity for children as it allows them to put aside any worries that they may have had about moving to a new year group.

**Internal Sports Day for Children Only - Monday 19th July.**

During the final week of term our PE specialist James, will be organising for the children to have a sports event, similar in style to our normal Sports Day. James has organised some exciting track and field events which will take place throughout the school day. We will be adhering to our strict social distancing policy during this event so that class bubbles do not mix. This unfortunately means that we will not be able to welcome parents into school on this occasion. All events will take place within the school day and your child will need to arrive and leave school in the usual way.

Please can children from all year groups, come to school in the kit that they would normally wear for PE lessons, on the morning of **Monday 19th July.**

**Reports**

Class teachers have been busy preparing your children’s School Reports ready for the end of term. This year reports will be issued electronically for the first time. They will be sent out to you via email on **Tuesday 20th July**. If you do not have access to a printer and need a paper copy of the School Report, please contact the school office. On the reports there is a section for parents. This section is designed for parents to add their voice to celebrate and record their children’s successes at school. The teachers love to read your comments on the reports. Once you have added your comments, please can you send them electronically to the school office. Any queries about the reports should be directed by email to the school office.

**Staff**

As reported in our last newsletter we will have some staffing changes next year.

Firstly, we would like to thank Mrs Wilkins for her commitment and passion for teaching at Old Stratford as she moves on to a new role within our school. We are pleased to announce that she will be re-joining us at Old Stratford in September as a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant supporting us across the school.

We wish Mrs Burnside the very best of luck as she starts her maternity leave. We look forward to seeing her new bundle of joy in the coming months!

Mrs Pullin is also leaving us at the end of this school year. She has been supporting us across several year groups and has been a valued member of the Old Stratford team. Next year she will be moving onto pastures new. We wish her continued success in her new ventures.

Children from Old Stratford have been representing their school at various sporting events, very successfully, this term. We would like to thank James for organising these events. As James will not be with us next year, we would like to send him our thanks for all the work he has done to enthuse children in fitness and sporting activity. We wish him well in his new role next term.

Last but not least, we are excited to welcome Miss MacDonald to the teaching team as she takes up her post with us in as a Year 4 teacher. She will be a great addition to our team, and we look forward to getting to know her better in the coming weeks and months.

I am sure you would like to join the staff in thanking Mrs Sarbutts for all her dedication this year and as she continues to support us whilst isolating and working from home. We wish her luck in the coming weeks with her ongoing treatment and as she moves along the road to recovery.

We would also like to pass on our thanks to all of our staff who have done an amazing job in challenging circumstances. It has been heart-warming to see how all staff have been so adaptable and supported each other to ensure that the school has run smoothly at all times and given the children the very best experience possible at school.

**End of Term Thursday 22nd July**

On the last day of term children will be finishing early as is our usual tradition. We would ask parents to ensure that they collect their children promptly at the allocated time and in the usual location, so that there is no mixing of class bubbles as they leave. Where parents have siblings, please ensure that arrival is timed to collect the child who is first to finish.

Please collect your child at:

EYFS and Year 3 – 1.20pm

Year 1, Year 2 and Year 5 – 1.30pm

Year 4 – 1.40pm

Year 6 will be notified of their leaving time separately.

**School Improvements**

During the summer holidays there will be an exciting development in school. Our currently underused mobile classroom is going to be refurbished and upgraded to make it into a fantastic new learning space. We will let you know more about this development in due course.

**New Term September 2021**

All year groups will be welcomed back to school on **Friday 3rd September**.

New statutory guidance for schools, regarding Covid, will be issued to schools based on the current situation as it is, at the end of August. Therefore, we will be able to let you know the arrival and leaving times for your child or children, during our first training day on Monday 1st September.

We hope you have a very happy summer with your children.

Kind regards,

Mrs Louise Faraday