Wednesday 1st September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back, I hope you have all had a lovely holiday. Please read the following information for some important changes for the start of the Autumn Term which begins on Friday 3rd September.

**Management of the school**

Unfortunately, Mrs Sarbutts will not be returning to work this term as she continues her cancer treatment. We will keep you informed of when she is to return but in the meantime Mrs Faraday will continue to deal with the day to day running of the school supported by myself and staff within the rest of the trust. I would like to ask for your support through this difficult time as we adjust to Mrs Sarbutts’ absence and work to establish a new routine of management.

It is important to note that Mrs Faraday will still be working in the classroom with her Year 3 class but will be released for part of the week to fulfil her management duties. Mrs Wilkins will cover these days to ensure that the children receive quality teaching and continuity.

I will also be on site during the week and can be at the school for any emergency when needed.

**How can you help as a parent/guardian?**

To help with communication it is important that parents follow the correct procedures if they have a concern regarding their child. Always contact your child’s teacher with an initial concern. This can be done through email to the office or a phone call. Teachers will always ring back as soon as they can or after school.

If you feel that your concern has not been resolved and you need to speak to somebody more senior then please contact Mrs Faraday (l.faraday@oldstratford.northants.sch.uk) who will get back in touch with you as soon as possible.

If you feel that you still are not happy with a concern that you have then please do not hesitate to contact me on headteacher@newbradwellschool.org.uk

**Changes to COVID restrictions**

Unfortunately, COVID is still prevalent, and cases are likely to rise as children return to school. However, as many adults have been vaccinated, we have been able to relax some of the previous restrictions, most importantly, how children are dropped off and picked up from school.

**Drop off and Pick Up Arrangements**

We would like to adapt the staggered start to school that we followed last year to a ‘soft start’. This means the gates will be open from 8.45am until 8.55am and your child can make their way into their classroom straight away. Children or parents **must not** gather in the playground. Parents are welcome and encouraged to drop their children at the gate, children will then make their way to their classroom independently. This worked really well last year and so we will be continuing with this approach. Parents must not enter the building with their children. If you need to give a message to the teacher, please send a note in with your child or phone the office. The gates will be supervised by members of staff and locked at **8.55am**. Please make sure that your children arrive at school on time. Parents can drop their children at any gate.

**Reception and Year 1** children will continue to use the gate off the car park. To avoid congestion Reception children should arrive at school between **8.35am and 8.45am** allowing the space to be free for Year 1 children from 8.45am.

When collecting your children at the end of the day parents are welcome to wait in the playground but we ask for one parent to attend only to avoid congestion. Teachers will bring your child’s class out for collection at **3.30pm**.

Reception children will need to be collected promptly at **3.20pm** again allowing space for Year 1 to be collected at 3.30pm. Please do not worry if you have children to collect at 2 different gates as teachers will be on the playground to supervise children until they are collected. However, could we please ask that you always pick up the youngest children first so we can assess quickly if a parent has failed to collect a child for whatever reason.

**Reducing mixing**

Children will remain in their classes as much as possible. Breaks and lunch times will still be staggered. If a child is infected within a class, the class will not automatically be closed. Advice now states that only close contacts need isolate, and this process will be overseen through Track and Trace. However, if COVID does begin to spread to 3 or more children within a class the school will seek advice from Public Health and the class may be advised to revert to Remote Learning, if cases increase whilst children isolate. We strongly advise all families to regularly use Lateral Flow Tests at home so that we can identify cases quickly and reduce the spread of cases within school. If anybody in your family has COVID symptoms, regardless of whether they have been vaccinated, it is important that you book a PCR test.

**Curriculum and Learning**

Whilst we continue to keep in step with governance guidance linked to COVID, we are doing all we can to deliver as normal a school experience as possible. With this in mind enrichment activities are being reintroduced, and assemblies will recommence within key stages. We hope that these routine events will help the children enjoy a more normal school life. As mentioned at the end of last term, Years 5 and 6 will begin swimming lessons this term so please ensure they have the correct kit for these sessions.

Children in year 6 will have their swimming lessons from 9.30-10.30am starting on Friday 10th September for 13 weeks until 10th December. Children in year 5 will also access swimming lessons during these same Fridays, their sessions will run from 10.30-11.30am.

Swimming hats are compulsory and can be bought from the office for £1 – Please send your £1 in an envelope with your child’s name on clearly.

**Before and After School Provision**

Freestyle is our outside provider that will provide Morning Club before school from 7.45am. This will run in a similar way to Pacesetters where parents will need to drop their children off at the front gate. Please ring the bell where a member of the club will come and collect your child from the gate. Children must be booked into the club prior to arrival. Please note that this club does not include breakfast. Freestyle will also be providing daily after school sports clubs until 5.00pm each evening. These clubs will be for all year groups but will have limited spaces so please visit the freestyle website (www.freestylegroup.co.uk) to book your child’s space or contact the freestyle staff for further enquiries.

Please make sure that children arrive in school on Friday with the correct school uniform. We have been lenient over recent months but must now return to the high standards Old Stratford expects which includes full school uniform. However, to begin with, on PE days children can arrive and remain in PE kit for the day. Can we also ask that children are in the correct PE kit for the day following the school policy.

Enjoy the last few days of your holiday, we look forward to seeing you all on Friday. The office is now fully open so if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us where we will be happy to answer any questions.

Kind regards,



Phil Webster

CEO- Grand Union Partnership