25th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our Spring Term newsletter. As the days lengthen and our gardens spring back into life, we are busy at school planning lots of exciting learning opportunities for your children, both inside and beyond the classroom.

**School Organisation**

As Covid restrictions have eased we have ensured that we have gradually reintroduced more normal school routines. With each new change we monitor its impact carefully. We ensure that we are continuing to follow the latest government guidance for schools. These guidelines include ensuring that classrooms and all areas of the school are well ventilated, with the air quality being monitored. We continue to encourage children to have good hygiene routines around hand washing and the use of antibacterial gel in classes. We are also maintaining enhanced cleaning routines across the school.

**Morning Entry to School from Monday 7th March**

We are now able to reintroduce more normal school morning routines. Children will be allowed onto the school playground at 8.40am, then at 8.50am a whistle will be sounded signalling that children need line up with their class ready to be collected by their teachers.

Until after the Easter holidays, EYFS children will continue to come in at the same time and in the same way as they have done, since September. After Easter, EYFS children would need to be brought around the school to the Rainbow Gate from 8.45am where they will be met by a member of staff.

When preschool children are on the playground with their parents, we would request that they do not play on the school equipment for safety reasons.

**PE Kit**

From next week we are making changes to how sports kit is managed on PE days. We would like your child to come into school in their unform on PE days then change for PE in school. We find this works best if children bring their PE kits in at the start of the week on Mondays and take it home to be washed at the end of the week.

**Fundraising**

Staff would like to pass on their thanks to everyone who supported our appeal for toiletries to support refugees in our locality. The organisation was overwhelmed by our response to their appeal.

Currently children are studying their Global Learning themes and considering ways in which they can support a local, national or international cause. Requests for your support will be sent out by teachers when these activities are planned to take place.

We would also like to thank OSSA for their continuing fundraising work to support our school. They are currently supporting us to develop the mobile classroom into a science and music hub.

**Class Photos**

Our photographer will be visiting school on Wednesday 30th March to take each class’s photo. These will then be available to purchase in the normal way.

**Parents Evenings**

Thank you to everyone who has already booked their parents evening appointment. Teachers are looking forward to catching up with parents about their children’s progress. These meetings will take place face-to-face in school, however we request that parents wear a face mask as an added precaution to avoid any accidental transmission of Covid during these evenings.

**Medical Information**

The school has been monitoring and reviewing the procedures for the administering of medication. Please make sure that the office is informed of any new medical conditions that you child develops. This will enable us to best support their needs in school. We would remind parents that all medications for your child’s use in school, such as inhalers, should have as long an expiry date as possible.

**End of School Year, Date Change**

As it is the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee this year schools have been gifted an additional day’s holiday. This means that the final day of the summer term will now be **Thursday 21st July**, school will end at 2.30pm on that day.

**World Book Day**

This year we are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day on Friday 4th March. On this day we would like children to dress up as a favourite character from a book. We would also like your children to bring a favourite book in from home, ready to share it with their class.

**Visits, Visitors and Curriculum Events**

School staff are busy preparing some exciting visits and events for children in each class. It is wonderful for staff to be able to take children out and about to enjoy all sorts of engaging curriculum linked activities again. These will take place in the summer term and will consist mainly of day visits to various locations including; Frontier Adventure Centre, Everdon Field Centre and London. Each year group will be sent information as these visits are confirmed.

**Awareness Days**

As a school we continue to support the mental health and wellbeing of our children. During the last week before half term all classes enjoyed participating in our special week linked to supporting mental health and happiness. Within this week we all took part in the national ‘Wear a Scarf to School Day’.

**Bikeability**

Children in years 5 and 6 will be taking part in Bikeability from Monday 14th to Thursday 17th March. This activity takes place over four days in the playground. It is led by trained expert staff who are skilled in teaching the children how to develop their cycling skills with an emphasis on riding technique. Children will also learn how to make sure their bikes are correctly maintained and that they fully understand how to stay safe when riding.

**Assemblies**

We are pleased to be able to continue with our socially distanced Key Stage assemblies this term. In addition, we will be welcoming visitors from our local churches to take some of these assemblies linked to our RE, Christianity and PHSE themes.

**Lunches**

Polite reminder – when ordering school lunches please could parents ensure that they have sufficient funds to cover the cost of their children’s meals.

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