

10th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Autumn Term Newsletter 1.

To all our new families, welcome and to all our old families, welcome back! It has been a real joy to see so many smiling happy faces around the school, this is the staff as well as the children. We've had the usual 'haven't you grown' conversations which has been accompanied by some impressive eye rolling from our teenagers, which is great.

I've a few bits to share with you as we start our new year.

Welcome

As well as welcoming our 47 new students and their families to Market Field, we say hello to some new staff. Mrs Turner joins our teaching team in year 8, Mrs Withrington and Miss Townshend join our year 9 team and Mrs Woolf joins year 10. We are excited by the depth of experience they are bringing from their previous schools.

Joining our permanent LSA's are Ms Blackmore, Mrs Dalmon, Mrs El-Safty and Mrs Bird. Mr Billy joins our supply LSA team and will be working with us when he is not at college. Welcome to all of you!

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is now up and running again. You should have received an invitation to join your child's class. We would strongly encourage you to do so as this will be where we share day to day school information that you will need to know. Please notify the office if you are unable to do so.

Swimming

Following (extensive) discussions with Leisure World, I am delighted to announce that we are able to offer more classes the opportunity to swim this academic year. We will be offering catch up swimming to our children in years 7, 8 and 9 to take into account that they didn't have the opportunity to reach the end of KS2 expectations because of Covid. Further information will follow when it is time for your child to swim (usually for

a term on rotation) but I would ask that you check your child has appropriate swimwear in preparation for this.

School Dinners

The dinner menu for this term is available on Dojo and is on the website. Chef Pauline has asked me to tell you that the kitchen is experiencing some difficulties in obtaining particular items. The menus will be subject to change at short notice if items are not available. All monies can be entered on pay360 (formerly Sims Pay). Any problems, please contact Gemma in the school office.

Covid-19

I have attached a summary of the schools procedures for Covid-19, following the latest guidance issued to us from the Department for Education. The most notable change is that your child no longer has to isolate if there is a positive case in their household if they are symptom free. They are expected to come to school unless they have symptoms or are confirmed as positive on a PCR test.

If there are cases in your child's class, the same guidance applies and all other children are to come to school as normal, unless they develop symptoms themselves. We will continue to test children for Covid-19 in year 7 and above twice weekly, using lateral flow tests. Staff will also continue to test twice weekly at home.

Shielding has now ended for children and attendance in school is mandatory. I know that for some of our families, this will cause anxiety and I ask that you talk to us if this is the case.

I have also attached guidance leaflets from the Department for Education, which we have been asked to send out.

Other school information

We are pleased to announce that the Chatten Free School is now open for business in Witham joining our Hope Learning Community.

Reminder to parents to notify the office please of any student absence. It's fine to inform the class teacher via Dojo, however, please also notify the office. Also, although we are not encouraging holidays to be booked within the academic year, in the event that it cannot be avoided please put it in writing to the school office.

Academic Calendar

Please see attached the revised academic year for 2021 / 2022. The Government have stated that as the additional Bank holiday has been set in the June half-term holiday, the end of term has been moved to Thursday 21st July 2022.

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 5th October - Meet the teacher parents evening (info to follow)

Friday 22nd October - Individual School photos

Sincerely

Ruth
Head of School

Encs