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Newsletter no. 1

25th September 2020

Thank you!

First of all, I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding in these first few weeks of term. It has been a very strange time in and out of school and the support we have received has been greatly appreciated. Our entrance and dismissal routines seem to be fairly settled and parents know where and when to collect the children. Again, thanks for this. I appreciate that there are increasing concerns about the potential impact of COVID-19 especially in the North East where we are experiencing increasing levels of infection. We are kept up to date with any developments by South Tyneside Public Health and, like many of you, we are all responding to the announcement of increased restrictions for everyone in our area.

Reception starting times

We have been delighted by the way our Reception children have settled in class. Mrs Bertram has been amazed by how mature they have been, especially with the restrictions in place, and feels they are definitely ready for an early start! From Monday, Reception children can enter school between 8.45-9.00am along with the rest of the school. We will continue to make sure there is a member of staff to welcome them at the gate and guide them to the classroom. We do ask that you continue to abide by the one way system. Collection time remains at 3.00pm.

PE kits

A number of parents have contacted school regarding PE. We have revised our guidance on PE kits to the following:

- Children can come to school ready for PE on their allocated day.
 - **Monday - Year 6**
 - **Tuesday - Year 5**
 - **Wednesday - Reception and Year 4**
 - **Thursday - Year 1 & Year 3**
 - **Friday - Year 2**
- PE kits will be returned home today.
- Children can wear jogging bottoms for PE, especially during the Autumn and Spring terms. These can be worn for the whole day.
- Children must wear plimsolls for PE Lessons. These will be kept in school so it would be helpful if they are named. Plimsolls already in school will not be sent home.
- Children can wear trainers for the rest of the day (PE days only) but these are not to be used for PE.

Parents Evenings

Due to COVID restrictions in school, this term's meetings between staff and parents will take place via phone calls. These calls will be in ten minute slots and can be booked through the usual system. Information regarding this will be shared soon. Meetings will take place on:

Tuesday 3rd November 3.30pm - 6.00pm
Wednesday 4th November 3.30pm-6.00pm

Dates for term

Dates for the coming term will be shared on Monday. As you will understand, these dates are subject to change! We will of course inform you as soon as possible of any changes.

Trust update

The date for St Joseph's to convert to be part of the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust remains as Tuesday, 1st December 2020. We will of course continue to keep you updated.

First Holy Communion update

As you may know, the restrictions placed during the Spring and Summer term meant that our children who were taking part in the First Holy Communion programme were unable to celebrate with Mass. Dates have now been organised with Fr Adrian and smaller celebrations have been shared with these families. We plan to start the new programme with interested families of Year 4 pupils and further information will be shared soon.

Liturgy and worship

Despite the fact that we are unable to get together as a school for worship, we have been sharing Liturgy each Monday in our classrooms. I have created videos for each Liturgy and these are relayed in the classroom with the same reverence we would expect in the hall. These videos will be available on our website and social media so that you can share them with your child too.

Bikes and scooters

From Monday, we are allowing children to leave bikes and scooters in our bike shed. This is, however, a trial for the week to see if it is viable and doesn't impact on the one way system round school. If your child is putting their bike away, please make sure you help them and that they wait until there is a space for them to place the bike or scooter away.

Inset Days

School is closed to pupils on the following Inset Days:

Monday 4th January 2021

Friday 2nd July 2021

Thanks again for your continued support.

Mr P Craig
Headteacher

