

October 2020 Newsletter

Dear Families

We've had a positive start to Term 2 and it is great to see pupils back looking happy to return to school again. This is always a busy term, usually, but this year things will be somewhat different!

	<p><u>Halloween</u> is one of children's favourite times of the year. If your child <b>wants</b> to dress up on Friday 30 October, they can come to School/Nursery in fancy dress. There will be no cost involved. Your child can also dress down wearing 'casual clothes' if they wish. We only ask that children do not bring in toy weapons as part of a costume. Try not to be too scary, as some costumes might upset younger children! Teachers and Nursery staff will plan a few fun things for the afternoon with their children, but will still continue to be vigilant in how we have fun safely. Should your child not wish to take part in any Halloween activities, please let the school know. Staff may have a few sweets to hand out – we know if your child has allergies from school paperwork, but if you do not want your child to have sweets, just let the staff know.</p>
	<p><u>Christmas shows</u> (as we know them!) will not be happening this year. This is because current guidelines say we should not be singing in school nor meeting in large groups. So each class will have their own plans for how they celebrate this Christian festival. Teachers and Nursery staff will let you know in good time. Parents will not be invited into school, but we hope to share with you via Seesaw where we can.</p>
	<p><u>Current guidelines for PE</u> say we will continue to do gym lessons outdoors. This is fine in good weather...but please ensure your child comes to school dressed for outdoor PE on their set day(s). On very wet days, PE will be postponed until it is sensible to go out. We will still encourage children to play outside for break and lunchtime...so dress your child appropriately for the weather. Spare socks are helpful in your child's bag!</p>

	<p>We have sent a separate email to parents with a breakdown of the <u>school terms and holidays</u> for the year. Please try to keep your child's attendance high by avoiding holidays out-with school time. There are 2 in-service days in November to be aware of (Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - no kids these days). Please remember to let the school know in advance (via email please) if you plan to take your child out of school for any reason.</p>
	<p><u>School Lunches</u> continue to be eaten in the dining hall (P1-4) and in classrooms (for P5-7). The hot lunch menu is proving popular already. P1 pupils are new to the system, so if you want to help your child you can encourage them to carry their own plate to the table and the bin to scrape away scraps.</p>
	<p>Our <u>School Library</u> is now ready for action. Every child has their own 'number' and Alison, our Library helper, has it ready to go! So over the next few weeks, we'll encourage children back into the library (to browse with their eyes, not their hands). Children can borrow up to 2 books – one to stay in the classroom and one to take home. When books return, they will be quarantined for 72 hours before returning to the shelves. We hope you enjoy reading with your child – please encourage them to read widely to help build their reading skills.</p>
<p>good listening</p> 	<p><u>School Improvement</u> – again this term the teachers are focusing on the skills of listening and talking. Please ask your child what they've been learning – they should know the 4 rules for good listening/talking (NOT just for the classroom!)...look at the person who is talking; sit/stay still; listen to all the words to the end; stay quiet when someone else is talking. Teachers know that good listening and talking has to be 'taught' – it's not 'caught'. We'll send you more tips and ideas about how to improve your child's listening and talking as the term goes on.</p>
	<p><u>Poppy sales</u> for Remembrance Day (November 11) will still go ahead. This year, if you want your child to have a Poppy, you should donate your money on ParentPay. Money cannot be accepted in school. Poppies will be on sale from Monday 2 November. We will deliver poppies to children twice a week, when we note payments made via ParentPay.</p>