



'Loving our neighbours as ourselves, by treating others how we'd like to be treated'

8th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well. Now that we are a little way into term and have settled into our new routines, I wanted to write to let you know a few things. As a staff, we are really missing our face-to-face 'open door' contact with you. It is very strange and sad not to have held our whole-school family European Day of Languages continental breakfast morning, Harvest Thanksgiving service or Stay and Play sessions with you. We are anxious not to lose the close relationships we have built up with you and are mindful that it is difficult to form the new ones we really want to with our new families. Please remember we are all here for you if you need us about any issues concerning your child/ren. Just call and we will see what we can do to help you.

Best wishes,

Judith Jones

Parent/Carer Consultations

Due to the Covid-19 control measures in school, we will not be holding our traditional face-to-face parent and carer autumn term consultations in October which saddens us but is best for everyone's safety. However, we will be sending home a mini report instead about your child, how they have settled, their areas of strength and those we will be developing next. There will be space for you to reply to us if you wish to and an opportunity for you to make a phone or Zoom/Teams appointment to speak to your child's teacher if you have something specific you wish to discuss.

Remote (home) Learning

We have been working on our remote (home) learning plans so that we can be sure that if your child has to self-isolate, or one of our bubbles has to close, we will be able to send home relevant learning to ensure that they can keep up with what we are (or would be), doing in class. More details about how this will work will follow soon, but it will be very similar to what we did during the closure period, as feedback from you suggests that this worked well for the vast majority of you all. We have already been sending work to those who have needed it and the hope is we will, over the term, develop our offer to include an online learning journal which we will teach the children to use in school before they use it at home.

Staff News Update

Some of you may already be aware from an earlier notice from Ms Ashby Otun, that Anita Wharton, our beloved TA of over 13 years, will be leaving the school at the end of this half-term to enjoy some well-deserved early retirement. Mrs Wharton has been an invaluable asset to our school. Her hard work and dedication have ensured that hundreds of children have had the exact support they needed, when it was needed. She will be greatly missed by us all and we will ensure she receives the send-off she deserves!

We have heard from Ms Cartner, who has been walking the Coast to Coast long-distance path with her husband, since her plans to live in India this year had to change. She has sent some great photos and looked to be very much enjoying herself despite the bleak weather. She misses the children and the staff too, we hope!

Harvest Celebrations

We are sad that we are not able to hold our traditional annual harvest thanksgiving service in the church this year but instead, the children in each class will have been learning and celebrating harvest in their bubbles.

We would like to make a donation to the food bank of non-perishable items, so if you have some tins, boxes or packets you could send in to us, please do so by Friday 16th October.

School Lunch Ordering and Payment Changes

There is a separate paper-copy letter coming home about school dinners with a menu attached. We are pleased that we will be able to offer a hot food option after half-term but there are some changes to how we can do this, so please be sure to read it.

Car Engines

Some of our neighbours in Aslacton Road have politely requested that parents and carers switch off their car engines whilst waiting to collect their children. One engine was running for 40 minutes according to residents while others run for a good 20 minutes. This creates unpleasant exhaust fumes and noise for them (and other parents parked nearby). We are informed that some residents suffer with lung conditions so are finding the running engines distressing. I have also had a parent report this issue and, as they said, it is not helping to reduce carbon emissions or helping the health of the children leaving school at the end of the day. I have not been able to discover which car owners this yet, so am appealing to you all directly.

DIARY DATES

October

Thursday 21st October – Fri 30th – Half-term – school closed. Doors open Monday 2nd November.

Mon 12th - Tours of school for prospective families of children starting Reception in 2021 from 4 – 5pm

November – Weds 11th – Remembrance Collective Worship Online with Rev Lydia for all classes.

Mon 2nd & Weds 25th – Tours of school for prospective families of children starting Reception in 2021 from 4 – 5pm

December

Weds 9th - Tours of school for prospective families of children starting Reception in 2021 from 4 – 5pm

Fri 18th – break up for Christmas holiday

January

Mon 4th – School re-opens for spring term