

Friday 16 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well.

Basic Skills Award

I am delighted to start my letter with the fantastic news that we have achieved the Basic Skills Award in Maths and English. I would like to extend my thanks to the parents that supported this assessment as well as to congratulate Jo Hooper (maths lead) and Anna Bridges (English lead) for their hard work and commitment. This Quality Mark celebrates and supports continuous improvement in literacy and numeracy and we have been awarded this in recognition of our provision, practice and performance in literacy and numeracy. When the final report is released, I will publish this on the school website for your perusal.

Return to School in September Arrangements

Following confirmation from the Government that we will be moving to Step 4 of the roadmap we are pleased that we will be able to return to some type of normality from September.

As such, I wanted to outline some of the changes that we intend to make.

- There will be no class or key stage 'bubbles'
- There will be no requirement to wear face coverings (however, if there is an outbreak this may need to be re-introduced and of course if you would like to wear one then please do so)
- Whole school assemblies will resume
- Pupils will use the dining hall for lunch (some pupils will continue to eat in their classrooms)
- Specialist areas will be timetabled as before
- Meetings will be allowed 'face to face' in school

We will of course continue with the following good practice:

- Continued hygiene practice – 'catch it, bin it, kill it'
- Staff will help by ensuring good levels of ventilation in classrooms
- Remote learning will be in place for positive cases that are isolating at home

LFD testing for asymptomatic pupils

WCF have recommended that pupils who are 11 + should have 2 on-site LFD tests 3-5 days apart prior to the start of the new term. After that, pupils should continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. As before, it is at your discretion as to whether or not you feel you would like your child to have a test. If you need some test kits please contact the main office and this can be arranged.

Staggered return for Reception pupils

06.09.21 – Class 1A will attend school from 09.30-12.30 (parents/carers to drop off and collect from the main reception).

Goodbye to staff

It is at this time of year that we say thank you and goodbye to staff that are leaving us:

- Gabby Warwick has worked as a teacher since July 2017 and has worked in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. Gabby is re-locating to work in a specialist independent school in Cumbria. We wish Gabby every happiness in this new exciting chapter of her life.
- Sharney Cookson has been a Teaching Assistant since April 2018 and has worked in the Early Years Department during that time – we will miss her.
- Felicity Harris has worked as an Early Years class teacher for the last two years and is going to work at another special school, Welcombe Hills in Stratford-Upon-Avon. Felicity has formed great relationships with the families of the children that she has worked with and has shown dedication and commitment to every individual pupil.
- Emma Green has been a Teaching Assistant at Pitcheroak since January 2020 and is leaving to progress her teaching career.

Goodbye to our leavers

And finally, we say goodbye and good luck to our pupils who will be leaving us for pastures new. We wish Harvey, William, Leo, Evie, Lee, Hialie, Daniel, Kurt, Joel and Joshua every happiness in their futures and would be happy for them to keep in touch from time to time to let us know how they are getting along.

All that is left for me to say is enjoy the summer holidays and we will see you in September for a brand new school year; one hopefully that will be filled with fun times and the creation of happy memories for our young people.

Yours sincerely



S Holden

Headteacher