

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear all,

It has been great to have the children back in school again. They have settled in incredibly well and we have all been really impressed by how quickly they have picked up all the new routines.

The staff have spent the week doing lots of talking and listening activities with the children about relationships and mental health whilst introducing the whole school topic 'Marvellous Minds'. The staff have also started assessing the children's learning and planning activities to build on what they already know whilst plugging any gaps they may have from before.

It is evident through talking to the children they seem to be really enjoying the new topic and some had started some lovely art during a lesson about friendships, whilst others had been making models to support their learning.

It was very exciting this week for Cedar class to begin their term in Forest School. They gathered under the new shelter and were soon off finding mice, rat and cat sized sticks to fuel our camp fire.

The children then got busy with Forest School jobs and they all mastered the flint & steel strike. The afternoon ended with a hot chocolate. They returned to class tired but happy and scented by the wood burning smoke.

A couple of reminders:

Where possible children, particularly in FSU and KS1, should only bring book bags rather than rucksacks to school. This avoids all the bags being squashed together on pegs and staff having to go through them getting the little ones' lunch boxes out.

All children must have a water bottle in school every day. This must contain water not squash or fizzy drinks. If there is a reason as to why your child cannot have plain water please see the class teacher. Everyone has been sent a form about allergies. It is vital you complete this, one per child as soon as possible. Even if we know about previous allergies we must have this form back.

As I said above the children have picked up the new routines really quickly.

It is vital that all the parents adhere to the new dropping off and collecting routine.

You must:

- Arrive on time – not early (particularly years 1-4) or late (particularly years 5 and 6)
- Stand on a yellow spot - with your child if it is drop off time or whilst waiting for another sibling.
- Use the one way systems coming in and out of the playground
- Only come in one adult per family
- Only come into the office one at a time
- Not be rude to staff, it is neither helpful nor kind. Everyone is trying their very best.

Please try to:

- Fill up the yellow spots from the back. This allows everyone to see where there are still spaces.
- Leave without all crushing through the gate at the same time. When people chat on the way out in groups, it blocks the paths and slows everything down.
- Be aware that some parents and children are very anxious, adhering to the rules makes everyone safer.
- Consider wearing masks. It is not mandatory but would add another layer of protection for you.

We will keep reviewing these procedures and adapt as required.

I hope you have a good weekend. I am aware that with the R rate rising and guidance changing so you can only meet up with six other people things will continue to be difficult for many people. Please let us know if you or your child are feeling particularly anxious so we can support you.

Best wishes

Mrs Taylor-Bashford

**Stars of the Week:** Oak – Liam, Rowan – Jack, Sycamore – Brooke, Cedar – Gemma,  
Maple – Matilda & Grace, Beech – Maisie