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Headteacher: Andrea McCluskey

Welcome Back

Start of Term 5 Newsletter

Welcome back!

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and enjoyed some well-deserved rest. We are excited to welcome everyone back for a short but truly fantastic term ahead.

However as we start this term I must write to you today about something important: the wellbeing of our staff and the way we work together as a school community.

Although most of our parents are incredibly supportive, a small number of parents frequently contact us with challenging emails and calls which are having a significant impact on staff. We are resilient, but we are also human, and the time spent responding to repeated criticism or disputes takes us away from what matters most—teaching and supporting your children.

A few examples include:

- Questioning reasonable behaviour consequences.
- Challenging clear uniform expectations.
- Repeated attempts to challenge or override school policies.
- High volumes of emails and calls that question day-to-day professional decisions.

We absolutely welcome necessary contact and genuine concerns, so we can work together for the benefit of your child. However, should you feel very strongly on an *unresolved* issue we have a complaints policy, which is accessible via the website.

This letter is not about stopping communication; it's about keeping it reasonable so we can do our jobs effectively.

Please remember:

- Every unnecessary email reduces the time we can give to teaching and supporting children.
- High expectations and consistent consequences help children learn.
- Not every situation is straightforward, and sometimes the information a child shares may be incomplete or misinterpreted.
- With 206 pupils, we simply cannot sustain lengthy email exchanges or repeated challenges to professional judgment.
- All communications should be respectful, both in person and electronic.



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External visitors, including the Local Authority and specialist services, have praised our school's ethos and curriculum. This is because of our dedicated staff and the support of the vast majority of our families. Our behaviour is "Outstanding" due to our policies and procedures.

We care deeply about your children. We work hard. And yes—sometimes we make mistakes. When we do, we apologise and put things right.

One of our core PRIDE values is **Respect**. We ask that all communication with staff reflects this, just as we teach your children to show respect in their interactions.

To the many parents who support us every day: **thank you**. Your encouragement means more than you know.

We have a wonderful school with fantastic children and a strong, supportive community. By working together—with trust, understanding and kindness—we can ensure it continues to thrive.

How does communication work best?

Morning Communication – Before School Starts

Once morning activities begin, teachers need to be fully focused on the children and have very limited capacity to hold conversations. To help the start of the day run calmly and safely, please use **email or contact the school office** for:

- Reporting absences or medical appointments
- General enquiries or administrative matters
- Requests for meetings with teachers or senior leaders
- Sharing non-urgent concerns about your child's well-being or learning
- Letting us know if a different adult is collecting your child (if not previously arranged)
- Passing on messages that do not require immediate attention

Please allow at least 48 hours for a response. All staff are working with children and cannot respond to emails during the school day.

Staff on the playground are there primarily to supervise children and model positive behaviour.



End of the School Day Communication

At the end of the day, teachers may have a little more time for short conversations. This is a more appropriate time for:

- Quick feedback about how your child has settled or managed during the day
- Immediate concerns about something that happened during school hours

For anything that requires detail or additional time, we still encourage **arranging a meeting** or **sending an email** so we can give the matter the attention it deserves.

By following these steps, teachers can remain focused on delivering high-quality learning while keeping communication open and supportive. We appreciate your understanding and partnership in helping our school run smoothly.

Term 5 Theme: Feelings/ Grief and Loss

This term theme focuses on **feelings**, including the important topics of **grief and loss**. These emotions are a natural part of life, and it is essential that children have the chance to explore and understand them in a safe and supportive environment.

As always, we approach this theme with great care and sensitivity. Staff will use **high-quality stories** and to help children reflect on different emotions, recognise them in themselves and others, and learn healthy ways to express and manage their feelings.

Term 5 dates

20.4.26 Start 5 starts

23.4.26 Year R and 6 Hearing and Vision

1.5.26 Year 2 Assembly

4.5.26 Bank Holiday

11.5.26 SATs Week Yr6

15.5.26 Break the Rules day

21.5.26 Year R Trip

20.5.26 Year 5 11+ Meeting

Future dates:

18.6.26 Sports Day

19.6.26 INSET

22.6.26 INSET

10.7.26 INSET

1.9.26 INSET

2.9.26 INSET

