Newsletter no.7

Dear parents and carers

Thank you very much for your welcome to us over the last week. It has been great to meet many parents individually. We will get to learn your names once we have the 100+ children in our heads!

Very well done to all the children for coping with the new arrangements at the start and the end of the day and thank you to you all for being so positive.

Just to confirm, the gates will open at 8.45 for our children. Once the Dragonfly member of staff is standing at the gate (approximately 8.55 am) this means that your child should go into their classroom via the front entrance as their classroom door will be closed.

**Attendance and Punctuality**

**Punctuality**

Getting children to school on time can be a challenge especially when there are younger ones to get up and get ready. We are starting lessons at 9am now and have shifted our assemblies to just before the morning break, so it is crucial that children are ready to learn by 9am. Officially our registers close at 9am and your child will be given a late mark if he / she arrives after that time. If you are facing challenges with getting children in on time on a regular basis, please contact us so we can support you.

**Sickness**

Thank you to parents who ring in to report illness as soon as possible on the first morning. A check was made in the autumn term to ensure that we have up to date contact numbers. Clearly if your circumstances change, please let the office know. A reminder for any sickness and diarrhoea absence – please do not send your child back until 48 hours after the last ‘episode’.

**Medical appointments**

Where possible please arrange appointments before or after school so that your child does not miss learning time. Thank you..

**Taking time off during the school term**

If you decide to take your children off school during the school term, in line with best practice, it will not be authorised unless there is an exceptional circumstance. As a guidance, this would be a funeral parents need to attend or similar situation where a change cannot be made.

**Attendance below 95%**

If your child has attendance below 95% that is equivalent to missing nearly two weeks of school time; below 90% is nearly 4 weeks of school time. We will be working with the Education Welfare Officer for Devon to support families where there are attendance challenges. They are also there to support us if we need to issue Penalty Notices where unauthorised attendance goes beyond 10 days.

**Next steps : School Council**

It has been a great pleasure working with your children at the start of the term and watching their interactions with the teachers, the teaching assistants and with each other. Mrs Mannix will be taking over the School Council and was pleased to meet with the team today. Their first task is to

undertake a short survey and they will then focus on identifying positive learning behaviours in the classroom and positive social behaviours in the playground . We have already had positive feedback as the children are very confident in saying what they feel!

**Admissions for September 2018**

The cut-off date for school admissions for rising 5 year olds is January 15th 2018. This is a quick reminder to all parents just in case it has slipped your mind.

Kind regards to you all.

Amanda Burt Elaine Mannix