



Learning, Laughter and Friendship

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6th September 23

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

It has been lovely to meet our new Reception children today, and the children who have started with us in other year groups. They have all come in very settled and quickly got on with the activities that have been set up for them today. I look forward to watching them grow and develop over the next year and into the future. I also look forward to meeting new parents in time and again I wish you a warm welcome to The Dingle family.

Thank you to all parents and carers this morning for ensuring your child arrived at the right entrance, and on time; we have had a very smooth start to the year, all things considered. Tomorrow, the Early Years, and Years 1 and 2 doors will open from 8:45am. The main door for Years 3-6, the one they entered through this morning, will open from from 8:50am. This will contribute towards a staggered start into school. Once the doors are open pupils will be expected to enter the school and go directly to their classroom. We will again have staff on doors and corridors to welcome pupils and ensure they all get to their classrooms in time for the start of the school day. Reception pupils to Year 2 need to be in school by 8:50am and Years 3-6 by 8:55am, when the school day officially begins for them.

Finish times remain as follows:

Reception 3:15pm
Year 1 and 2 3:20pm
Year 3 and 4 3:25pm
Year 5 and 6 3:30pm.

Hopefully this will help to avoid congestion at pinch points.

What is being built?

There are 2 new classrooms being built on the front playground and an all-weather pitch onto the field at the back. The pitch will replace the playground we are losing. There are no internal alterations taking place, and as a result there is little impact on the learning that is taking place inside school. Some playtime timings have had to change with additional rotation, to ensure children get enough time outside at breaks and lunch to play.

I am expecting the works to begin towards the end of this month and to complete during the summer term. Unfortunately, once the builders are on site, this will make parking even more difficult around school. Please can I once again ask that you are considerate to our neighbours and don't block driveways etc and be prepared to park a little further from school. Thank you.

To our relief, none of the works relates to the concrete issue that other schools are unfortunately having to deal with, and my sympathy goes to colleagues, children and families whose schools are affected.

Helpful Reminders

Healthy Snacks.

The school's curriculum teaches children about healthy lifestyles, including **healthy eating**. We offer free fruit to all infant children at afternoon break and teach about a balanced diet. We would be grateful if parents consider carefully what type and the quantity of snack is provided, to support us in developing their understanding of keeping healthy. Today I saw a few children eating Flumps and chocolate bars- a bit too much sugar to then sit and do maths! Thank you for your support.

Absence for a holiday, unauthorised absence, sickness absence etc.

As it is customary to do at the start of the school year, I must discourage you from allowing your child to take time off school unnecessarily, and in particular for a **holiday, during school time**. Those families who do take unauthorised absence without a legitimate, exceptional reason will be liable to receive a fine from the local authority. This may amount to £60 per child and per parent. For example, a family of four would therefore be liable for a fine of £240.

If you do have to take a child out of school then you must complete a form requesting absence. This can be obtained from the school office.

Children are of course allowed to be ill and if they are struggling, they should not be in school. If a child has **sickness or diarrhoea** they must remain off school for at least 48hours since the last occurrence.

Occasionally some children struggle with **anxiety about coming in to school**. If this is the case, please make us aware and we will help as much as we can to support them.

If **your child needs collecting early** for a medical appointment for example, then please contact the office on the day, so we are informed and can make arrangements.

In all **incidences of absence**, please call the office on the first day. If no contact is made we will follow our safeguarding procedures to find out where the child is. The school's telephone number is 01270 918988

If **your child requires medication** then please ensure this is handed in at the office and a form completed stating the dosage etc. This includes Calpol, Piriton etc.

If **you are running late** or someone else is coming to collect, please contact the school so that arrangements can be made. In most instances, your child will be placed in after school club. If you have to arrange someone else to collect, then we need to know who they are as we will not allow a child to go home with someone we do not know or expect.

If your child needs pastoral support, then please contact the school and ask for Mrs Herron who will be able to offer or find support.

Changes to emergency contact numbers.

If you have changed any contact phone numbers, email addresses or address, please make the changes on your child's Arbor account online. There should be a minimum of 2 emergency contact numbers per family. If unsure, contact the school office on 01270 918988.

Are you in receipt of benefits? You may be entitled to additional support.

If you receive benefits then your child may well be able to **claim Free School Meals**. This is different to those offered to all children in the infants called Universal Free School Meals and children in Years Reception to Year 2 should apply for free school meals too. If you do qualify, your child may continue to receive free school meals for up to 6 years, even if your circumstances change. It will also trigger additional funding into school. This will enable us to make contributions to school trips and residential for you, and also help with the purchase of some items of school uniform. You may also be able to access free holiday clubs, additional food vouchers and other schemes if and when provided by the Council during school holidays.

To check if you qualify please follow this link [Free School Meals \(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/free-school-meals) ; Google 'Free School Meals Cheshire East' or contact the school office who could check for you.

This is all very confidential and the children have no idea who has free school meals or not.

Curriculum Information.

Information will come out from class teachers over the next week or so in regards to what your child will be learning in school, PE days, homework etc. If you have any further questions or concerns please contact school so we can address them.

Let's hope the sun continues to shine!

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Cox
Head Teacher