

### Welcome Back!

A warm welcome back to everyone– we hope you all had a great summer. It was lovely to see all the children this morning, including our new Nursery and Reception starters and children who have joined us in other year groups. Everyone has settled in brilliantly and we are looking forward to the year ahead, which we hope will be somewhat more 'normal' in comparison to previous years.

### New Staff

We have also welcomed a number of new staff this term. As you may remember from previous newsletters, Miss Barnfield has joined us as a teaching assistant in Year 1. We also have a number of apprentices who have joined our team– Megan Foster, Michayla Van Niekerk and Luke Chell. As part of their apprenticeships they will be supporting Olly to deliver sport and after-school clubs across school and working in classrooms with the children to support teaching and learning.

### Early Years

Today, we welcomed all of our new Reception starters and many of our new Nursery starters. The children have enjoyed a great first day and had a great time exploring their new classrooms and making new friends, as you can see from the photos below.



### Year 6 Trampolining

As part of their PE curriculum, Year 6 will be going trampolining at Velocity Trampolining in Billingham every Wednesday from this week. Year 6 staff will provide more information on this for parents tomorrow.

### Swimming

As you may know, swimming sessions for schools are now able to take place once again. As this will be the first time these sessions have restarted since March 2020, Class 10 will participate in swimming lessons first as they missed their swimming lessons due to the first Covid lockdown. We then expect Year 3 (Classes 7 & 8) to access swimming lessons later in the year.

Class 10 will start their block of weekly sessions on Tuesday 14th September at Mill House leisure centre in Hartlepool. Parents of children in Class 10 should today have received a letter with further details and a consent form to complete. Please return consent forms by Friday 10th September.

### COVID-19

Although Covid restrictions have been eased, the risk of transmission of the virus still remains. Rules on self-isolation have changed significantly since the Summer term and, currently, children (up to 18 years 6 months) and fully vaccinated adults no longer need to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for Covid-19. However, to reduce the risk of an outbreak in school, we are asking that children who are identified as close contacts take a PCR test before returning to school.



## Newsletter Monday 6th September

### Forest Schools

Forest schools will continue every Wednesday from this week with year groups taking part in these sessions on a rota. Please note, due to trampolining, Year 6 will have a separate Forest Schools day later in the term.

On Wednesday, it will be Year 5's turn to take part in an educational forest school lesson. Class 11 will go in the morning followed by Class 12 in the afternoon. **Children can come to school in their forest school clothes.** Please ensure they bring a waterproof coat and suitable footwear.

### ParentPay

ParentPay logins and passwords will be sent home to all our new families this week. We ask that you all login and activate your accounts as soon as possible. All our parents are reminded to login regularly and keep up to date with their payments. Should you have any questions, please get in touch with the office.

### Summary of School Operations

#### Drop off and Collection

We will continue to operate a flexible drop off between 8.30-9am and a flexible collection between 3.00-3.30pm. Currently, there is no longer a one-way system in place around school and, although the limits on the number of parents dropping off/collecting have been removed, we would encourage parents to limit this to one adult, where possible.

#### After-School Clubs

After-school clubs start today and will run from 3.30pm-4.30pm. At 4.30pm, children should be collected from their usual classroom doors. Any children who are not collected at 4.30pm will go straight to Tea Club.

All clubs are free of charge, although we are asking for a small contribution towards the cost of the bus for Trampolining Club, which has been added to ParentPay.

#### Lunches

Lunches ran extremely smoothly today as we returned to mixing in the hall once again. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free school meal as part of the Universal Free School Meals programme and the cost for all other year groups is £2.05, which is payable via ParentPay. A copy of our weekly lunch menu is available on our School website. Children can bring a packed lunch, if they prefer.

#### Worships

This week, we will be starting our new worship themes and are able to hold these in the hall again. Worships will take place in key stages initially and will include a worship led by Reverends Mark and Emily each Wednesday and our usual celebration assembly each Friday.

#### Uniform

A reminder that our uniform policy does not allow any jewellery in school other than a watch, including earrings.

Children will begin PE lessons this week so please ensure children bring their PE kits to school. These will be kept in school for the half-term and sent home at the end of term.

#### Children Walking Home Alone

We have had a number of requests from parents of older children to allow their child to walk home on their own. We ask that if you would like your child to do this, you send an email to the school office so we have it for our records.