



Dear Families,

Its been a lovely couple of weeks since my last letter. After the initial challenges of back to school in this new normal, everything seems much calmer and the children are very settled. We have talked before about a relationship of trust between families and the school, I understand that this might feel more challenging now, but we remain the same dedicated and hardworking team we were before lockdown. Each one of us has your child's best interests at heart.

Learning and Laughing . . .



The First Five minutes:

There is a bit of a theme to this part of my newsletter, which relates to the start of the school day. Evidence suggests that the first five minutes of school can set the tone for the rest of the day. It is important that children experience a positive transition from home to school and a happy hello to begin their day.

This relies on a partnership between home and school. We rely on parents to talk in positive terms about the school day, the verbal and non-verbal signals you give your child can be the difference between a good

day and a bad day. It has been hard for some children to return after so long at home and I know the struggle of getting a wilful child through the gate. If you need any support and strategies, then please chat to one of the team.

Here are a few ideas that I hope you will find helpful. I know that family life is busy and sometimes lateness and stress are unavoidable, believe me I have been guilty of all the 'try not to . . .' at least once.

DO

- ✓ Give yourself plenty of time to get to school
- ✓ Talk about the day ahead focusing on the positives
- ✓ Make time for transition, a nice hug, and a goodbye at the school gate
- ✓ Be guided by the practitioner. They might advise a quick exit or a slower transition.

Try not to

- ❖ Be late, its not nice entering the classroom when everyone else is settled.
- ❖ Worry! If your child is distressed at school, we will always phone you.
- ❖ Rush! This usually raises stress levels and leaves everyone feeling out of sorts.
- ❖ Offer bribes, e.g. if you get through the day, we can have sweets. We hope school is enjoyable and fun!

Arrangements for Owls:

On the subject of school drop off we are making some changes to Owl Class arrangements to allow for better social distancing. Please do not congregate at the pedestrian gate before 8.40. Some children are arriving as early as 8.15 which means a long and unnecessary wait for the start of school.

At pick up we will open the pedestrian gate at 3pm and parents/carers can wait in the outside classroom whilst children are dismissed from the door. Please always maintain social distancing on the school site.

School House:

I am very conscious of the building work at School House and am working hard to resolve this issue, in the meantime please keep your children with you in this area of the school and do not allow them near the skip or building materials please.

Owls Parents Meeting:

Owl families are invited to join myself, Mrs Hollis, and Mrs Fox for a virtual parent's meeting on 7th October at 4.15pm. At the meeting we will discuss the year ahead, the curriculum in Owls Class and tell you a little about the statutory tests your children will take this year.

We will be using Zoom to host this meeting, please find the invitation below. You will need to have your video on so that we can identify you and please ensure that your name is clearly and correctly displayed. When you join the meeting, you will be placed in a virtual waiting room; I will not be able to admit anyone to the meeting whose name is not clear and recognised.

Victoria Voller is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Owls Parents Meeting

Time: Oct 7, 2020 04:15 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84538629082?pwd=VGdMU0RkaHk0UVA0RGFGaC9UNnVQZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 3862 9082

Passcode: 075212

St James' Harvest Celebrations:

We are really missing the opportunity to engage with our community. Over the years we have enjoyed such strong and abiding links with the village, this part of our school life is sorely missed. I was delighted therefore that two of our children have been asked to represent our school at the online Harvest Celebrations hosted by St James.

If you would like to 'join' the service please follow the link here, on Sunday 4th October at 10am.

https://www.parishofshere.com/Groups/339461/Current_Services.aspx

Have a lovely weekend,

Best wishes

Vicky