



Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear Parents

Welcome back to our Autumn Term- it was lovely to see so many children and their families yesterday and even more today. It has been a positive start to term with children pleased to be back and all of us (staff and children!) working hard to re-establish our routines and expectations.

Return to school

Thank you to all parents for your support in ensuring your children are here on time and at the right gate! Just a reminder, **Y5 and Y6** need to be here at **8.45am** ready to go up at **8.50am** and they finish at **3.05pm**. **Y1, 2, 3, 4** start at **9.00am** and finish at **3.15pm** and **Nursery and Reception** start at **9.00am** and finish at **3.00pm**.

News and reminders

Reception children returning to school

Reception have a staggered start to school in the Autumn Term; this means that a small number of children start over 4-5 days. There are a number of reasons for this but largely, it means that children are able to have more attention from their teachers on their first day and settle into the new routines in a smaller group. Parents were given a start date for their child which was individual to them in July.

Nursery children returning to school.

Existing Nursery children will return on Monday 6th September. As with Reception, any new Nursery children will have been allocated a date for their child to start and they will initially spend just a few hours in school. When they are settled we will gradually increase their time.

After School Sports Clubs

After- school clubs for each year group will be 'live' on the app next week and will begin the following week. Parents will be able to book and pay for their child's year group club or clubs but please ask in the office if you are unsure. If you are new to the school and do not have ParentMail, please ask at the office for advice.

Home Reading Books

Home reading books were not sent home this week as teachers have been listening to all the children in their class read. We need to do this to ensure that the books going home are the correct level for your child so therefore home reading books will begin to go out from next week.

Attendance

Attendance at school is compulsory and all children should be in school unless they are ill. I am disappointed that some children are still on holiday at this time and to be clear, holidays in term time are marked as unauthorised absence.

Families who have had to delay their return back to school due to having Covid (and therefore not able to return home) will on this occasion be authorised.

However, the advice from the Government today is as follows in the section in red

Information for schools and parents about international travel

As part of a safe and cautious reopening to international travel, the [UK government's travel lists](#) have been updated. You may wish to remind parents of the following:

- international travel to and from the UK has changed – everyone will need to meet a number of new requirements so [we can all travel safely and securely](#)
- **before considering any international journey, parents should think carefully about the risks to them, their family, and their community, as well as the impact on their child's education**
- to prevent new COVID-19 variants from entering the UK, parents and families should not travel to [red list countries](#)

Everyone who enters England having visited or transited through a red list country in the ten days before arriving in England must quarantine in a [managed quarantine hotel](#). If parents are concerned about their ability to pay for managed quarantine, they may be offered a [deferred payment plan](#) and should call the Corporate Travel Management (CTM) helpline on +44 (0)20 7429 9983.

Please ensure therefore that **any future holidays are booked in school holiday time (see website for holiday dates).**

Illness

If your child is too ill to come to school, please phone 020 7727 7727 or email the school office info@apsafederation.com or report the illness via Parentmail **on each day of your child's illness** to let us know.

Covid-19

If your child has symptoms of Covid-19 they should take a PCR test and stay at home until they receive the result. If the result is negative they may return to school when they feel better, but if it is positive, they will need to stay at home for ten days.

Keeping our children safe.

'Face-timing' on your phones in the playground

I ask that parents do not 'face time' whilst in our playground at the beginning or end of the day. It has been noticed that some parents are and that in doing so they may capture the faces of other people's children on their screen without permission. We need to work together to keep all our children safe.

Grenfell Tower memorial Commission Event

There is a Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission drop-in event taking place this Saturday 4 September from 12-4pm in the Clement James Centre garden. You are invited to go along to hear updates on the Memorial Commission's journey and share your views about the future memorial. You will be able to talk and meet with your community representatives, and refreshments

And finally...

It has been a lovely first two days of term – children have been positive and made an excellent impression on their new teachers. We actually held two assemblies in the hall for the first time in 18 months and I was delighted that every teacher from Y1-Y6 gave their stars of the week to the whole class. Reasons included: following expectations, working well with each other, amazing manners, engaging fully in their learning and being excellent role models. What a great start!

A huge thank you to staff, children and parents; and I look forward to a productive term!

Have a lovely weekend.

Katy Blackler