



Newsletter

Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents

It has been so wonderful to have our children back in school and, in the main, looking very happy; also to see all our parents as well. The school has been filled with laughter and hard work in equal measures. All the children have looked so smart in new uniforms and have quickly got used to following the social distancing rules and hand washing regimes. Whilst some children have inevitably felt anxious, we are hoping that as the days pass, this anxiety will become less and the children will begin to feel relaxed and enjoy their learning. If you have any concerns or worries, please come and see myself or Mrs. Cottee.



Thank you for all our wonderful gifts at the end of last term. We really appreciate your generosity.

We have welcomed some new members of staff to school:-

- Mrs. Debbie Rudkin – Class Teacher in years 1 and 2 (she will continue as our SENCO also)
- Mrs. Debbie Welch – Mrs. Cottee's class release teacher on Monday's and Tuesday's
- Mrs. Katie Roe – Midday Assistant
- Mrs. Alisa Saiters – Midday Assistant
- Mrs. Sally Fisk – a teacher to support children who may be needing some extra help following lockdown

BUILDING WORKS

During the summer break, a lot of work has been completed in the school. We have a new EYFS play area with some lovely new play activities for the children. The school has been internally decorated in key areas and a new outdoor classroom has been installed, replacing the old gazebo. Many, many thanks to the PTA for helping us to fund this beautiful building. We have also purchased some exciting new gym equipment, using our Sports Premium grant. In the hall, we replaced the old projector with the latest model and have two new interactive whiteboards for the EYFS and class 1 rooms.

NEW ONE WAY SYSTEM

Thank you to all our parents for supporting our new one-way system when dropping off and collecting your children. I appreciate parents have to walk back to their cars, but it does mean that our children are not walking on a path near a very busy main road and that they are safe.

Please do not park in the layby adjacent to the school as some staff need to leave and they are blocked in! Parents/carers are respectfully asked to carefully consider where they park when collecting and dropping off children. Please do not park outside the bungalows in Pleshey Road, but use the car park in the park provided. If visiting the front of school, cars should not be parked or block the entrance in front of the school gates **at any time**. This is for health and safety reasons.

Garden Watering during Summer Holidays

Thank you so much to all the parents who gave up their free time to water the pot plants over the summer holidays. It really is appreciated!

Morning Arrival/Afternoon Collection

Kindly ensure your child arrives promptly at school between **8.30–8.40am**. Teachers inform the children of the format for the day ahead. If they are late, they miss this important information and do not have time to settle, it is also less disruptive for the rest of the class. ***School children or siblings are not permitted to use the field and equipment before or after school.*** Thank you for your cooperation.

Message from Teachers

Teachers are more than happy to discuss any issues you have, however, please could we ask that this is not done at drop off time as teachers need to organise their day ahead and settle the children as quickly as possible. Any urgent messages should be emailed to Mrs Fereday in the office, which will be forwarded to class teachers and they will contact you. If it can wait until after school, all the teachers are available immediately at the end of the school day and this is possibly the best time to mention minor issues. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Health and Safety: Jewellery in PE

Children are not permitted to wear any jewellery in school, other than a watch. If your child has pierced ears, the sleepers should not be worn in school, small studs only. **THIS IS ESSEX COUNTY POLICY.** In Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, jewellery must be removed for PE. Taping over jewellery is not permitted. This means if pupils cannot take earrings out, they will have to sit out of PE until they can remove their earrings. If children are getting their ears pierced it is advised they do so at the start of the six week school holidays.

Medication

School is not permitted to administer any medication during the school day unless they have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse prescriber or pharmacist prescriber. If medication is required three times a day, please administer this before and after school. If it is required four times a day, we will administer providing: medication is in the original container as dispensed, include instructions, name of child and medicine, dosage, time of administration, batch number/expiry date and any side effects. If your child has any medical conditions, we need to be made aware of, please contact the school office.

Absence Notes

Parents are required, on the first day your child returns to school, to send an absence note confirming the reason for any absence, and provide any medical evidence to support the absence (i.e. GP appointment, copy of medication label). This is a requirement of the Educational Welfare Officer. Parents to ensure they account for every absence, as we are unable to authorise them otherwise.

We are happy to accept notes by email: admin@fordend.essex.sch.uk School operates a 'first day contact policy'. This means that should a child be unable to come to school the parent should **notify the school office by 9.10 a.m.** to explain the reason for absence. If the school have not heard anything by 9.10 a.m., they will contact the parent by text message or telephone. The school has an answer phone available to leave a message. Parents are required to contact the school on every further day of absence, again before **9.10am**.

Food in School

Please remember that we are a no nuts school. We have children who have severe allergies. Snacks are not necessary for children in Class 1 or EYFS as they have a free piece of fruit/vegetable every day paid for by the Government. Break time snacks for older children should be either: fruit/vegetable/plain biscuit. Cake, crisps, cereal bars, yoghurt coated raisins etc. are not suitable for break, although they may be included as the 'treat' item in a lunchbox. A simple rule is: if it comes ready prepared in a small packet or bag and/or is sold as being suitable for school, it is

not suitable as a snack. No fizzy drinks. Any grapes or cherry tomatoes must be cut in half as these are a choking hazard. Chocolate 'treats' are allowed in lunch boxes on a Friday.

PE Kit & Uniform

All uniform and PE kit should be fully named including trainers and be in school at all times. A named water bottle should also be sent into school daily to keep your child hydrated.

Walking Home Independently

If any year 6 children are now allowed to walk home without an adult, please could parents ensure they send in written permission before hand.

Mrs Sarah Cottee
Head of School

Mrs Rumsey
Executive Head Teacher