



5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## **WELCOME BACK!**

Dear parent/ guardian,

Welcome back...I hope you had a lovely summer break and your children are ready for the start of the autumn term! A special welcome to all of our new reception and nursery starters too – I hope they enjoy their first experiences of school.

For updates and to check what your child will be learning about in the forthcoming term, please look on the school's website under your child's class colour and also in the key information section: curriculum. The website holds a wealth of information about what is happening in school so please do take the time to look at it.

### **Parental Workshops**

During the autumn term a variety of parental workshops will be on offer so you are able to support your child's learning at home. The workshops will be approximately 30 – 45 minutes in length and different session times will be available. Further information will be sent in separate letters to appropriate year groups but the dates are shown below so you are able to organise your diary in advance.

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Reception Phonics Workshop** (session times: 9.00am/2.45pm and 5.30pm)

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Year 3/4 Multiplication Tables Check Workshop** (session times: 2.45pm and 5.30pm)

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 Reception Handwriting Workshop** (session times: 9.00am/2.45pm and 5.30pm)

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Workshop** (session times: 9.00am/2.45pm and 5.30pm)

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 Year 5/6 SATs Understanding and Support Workshop** (session time 5.30pm)

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Reception Mathematics Workshop** (session times: 9.00am/2.45pm and 5.30pm)

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Year 1/2 Mathematics Workshop** (session times: 2.45pm and 5.30pm)

### **Attendance**

Good attendance at school for your child is vital if they are to make good progress with their learning; your help and support with this is greatly appreciated.

If your child is unwell, you must inform school as soon as possible and at the latest by 9.15 am on the first day of absence by calling school on 01706344609.

If you need to request 'leave' in term time there has to be exceptional reasons as to why the leave needs to be taken then. I will not be able to grant permission if the reason is cost as this is the same for everyone. Please do not book a holiday and then ask permission – seek permission first using the leave in term time absence requests, which are available from the school office. Your child's attendance must also be above 95% - if it is below, the leave will not be agreed. Any leave taken may incur a fixed penalty notice.

Remember, it is really unfair on your child if you take them on a holiday and inform school of differing reasons for absence. Children find this very stressful and do tell, which then places everyone in an awkward situation.

### **Year 1 – 6 Home School Agreements and Acceptable Use Policies (AUP)**

As part of our home school agreement and safeguarding procedures, there are documents for you to agree to in order for your child to be able to use the computers and other equipment in school. These documents will be sent electronically to you so please look out for the emails, which should be arriving soon.

These policies are in place to support keeping your child safe whilst online and using equipment in school.

### **School Meals and Free School Meals (FSM)**

Children in reception, year one and year two are entitled to universal free school meals; however, if you are in receipt of certain government benefits your child may be entitled to FSM. This needs to be claimed from the local authority where you live by applying online to Rochdale or Lancashire.

School receives extra funds, in the form of the pupil premium grant, when children have been in receipt of FSM for six months or more. Therefore, I really would urge you to make a claim if you are eligible – even if your child is in reception, year one and year two.

In years three to six, school meals must be paid for unless your child is entitled to FSM. If you have difficulty in paying for school lunches, we ask that you provide your child with a packed lunch rather than running up a debt. School budgets are under tremendous pressure and any debts will have to be followed up.

School dinners can be booked and paid for via the school spider app. Meals must be paid and booked in advance. Children in the infants and children entitled to FSM, do not pay for school meals; however, meals still need to be booked for in advance using the school spider app.

### **Concerns**

Remember if you have any worries or concerns, big or small, please do not hesitate to contact me to make an appointment or come and chat with me on the yard at the start or end of a school day and I will do my best to help you.

### **And Finally**

The old school building is getting a replacement boiler, which is much needed! You may notice work being completed on the school car park; however, you will be pleased to note, this first phase of work will not impact on the day to day routines in school.

With best wishes,

*J. B. Heap*

Mrs Joanne B. Heap  
Headteacher



MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL  
2022 - 2023

