



Tuesday 12th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! We hope that you have had an enjoyable and restful summer. It has been wonderful to welcome our children back to school. Other than the inevitable wobbles in the first few days, (from staff too!) everyone is settling well and we welcomed our new children yesterday. Mrs McLeod, our designated pastoral assistant, is off timetable this week and available to support children with the settling process and ensure everyone is in a good place to begin their learning.

Last week, we spent the time settling in and getting everything in place for learning to begin this week, in earnest. It was lovely to welcome you to our Meet the Teacher meetings. We hope you found these useful. You will know that we spent the last three days focusing on our School Christian Vision and Values. As a school we are what we say we are on the tin! Our vision values everyone as equal importance, and we use the Biblical imagery of sheep and shepherd to illustrate this. Everyone is of equal importance, everyone belongs and everyone is welcome. We acknowledge that there are some days when we may be a little lost, or need extra help and this is most certainly given. We believe that we are all looked after, as a shepherd tends for the sheep in the fold.

We have spent time revisiting our behaviour systems: the zones of regulation. Children will, in the first term be taught explicit lessons on understanding this system. We believe that behaviour is communication and we are always curious and not furious! You will never hear the word 'naughty' used in this school!

We have also learnt the expectations from our class teaching teams. There are school expectations in terms of how we present our work. We are proud of our learning and our school.

This newsletter is a bumper one and for your convenience we have printed all the information that you need and sent it home in an envelope. You will find the slides from the Meet the Teacher Meetings, the diary, registration forms for extended services: breakfast and after school club (all need to be renewed please, even if you are already attending) There is also an information sheet detailing the clubs available and how to sign up for these.

We look forward to a very happy year!

Staff

The staffing structure is as follows:

Robins: Miss Rocha, Miss Ferguson, Mrs Meunier

Blackbirds: Mrs Dawson, Mrs Quinn

Peacocks: Mrs Rogers, Mrs Calveley, Miss Robbins

Eagles: Mr Gunn, Miss Donoghue Mrs Kent, Miss May

Music Teacher: Mrs White

French Teacher: Mrs Meunier

Pastoral Assistant: Mrs McLeod

Breakfast Club: Mrs Kent and Miss May

After School Club: Miss Donoghue and Miss Robbins

Office Manager: Miss Clark

Finance Officer: Mrs Jennifer Savage

Caretaker: Mr Andrew Gull

Headteacher, Inclusion, Designated Safeguarding Officer:
Mrs Jerome

Deputy Headteacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer: Miss Rocha

Staff information, roles and responsibilities



We start the new term with some additional changes to staffing. We say good bye to Mrs Emma White and Mrs Newberry. Over the summer, the leadership team worked hard to make new appointments and we look forward to welcoming some new staff to school. We will share with you who they are and their team allocations as soon as the onboarding, formal processes have been completed.

We are delighted to welcome back to the fold, Mrs Kelly Quinn, returning to us after her successful treatment for cancer. We are treating her gently, and she is currently in school three days a week. We thank you for your support, good wishes and prayers during her robust treatment.



If you have any questions, worries or concerns, your first port of call is your child's teacher. Please contact them in the first instance via dojo. As mentioned during the Meet the Teacher Meetings, if your message is urgent, requiring an urgent response, please communicate via the office account: 8am – 4pm.

Please be aware that communication with your child's teacher is not an instant messaging service. You can expect a response by the end of the week (Friday) when teachers have their assigned PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) time. We regret that we are unlikely to be able to respond during the day: 8.30am – 3.30pm, and teachers are not expected to respond after 4pm. Likewise, teachers will not respond to messages during the weekend or school holidays. Please ensure that dojo is the only form of communication used with our staff. Staff are not permitted to use social media messaging systems with parents and asked not to be 'friends' with parents on social media platforms. We ask that you support them in upholding our staff Code of Conduct. Staff are expected to inform the leadership team if this is breached. Thank you for your understanding.

If you feel that your concerns, or messages have not been addressed, having allowed your class teacher the time frames mentioned, you can then escalate these to Miss Rocha or Mrs Jerome.

If your concern is regarding Special Educational needs, please contact Mrs Jerome. If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact Mrs Jerome or Miss Rocha.

Some reminders...

A reminder of the headlines in terms of the day to day organisation of school:



- Gates open at **8.35am** and close at **8.45am**. Registers are taken at 8.45am Any unaccompanied child arriving before 8.35am, will be cared for in breakfast club at a charge of £3.50
- School collection is **3.15pm**. Gates are closed at **3.20pm**. From this time, children can be collected from after school club, which is based in the school hall.

- **Breakfast Club:** Bright Birds opens at **7.30am**. If your child is attending, please ensure that registration forms are completed and returned by the end of this week, indicating known sessions your child will be attending each week.
- **After School Club:** Night Owls Bright Birds is available on a tiered arrangement. Parents can book for early session (collection at **4.45pm**) or late session collection at **5.45pm**) Should you require **URGENT EMERGENCY** care, please telephone the school office by 3pm.



The registration forms are attached to this newsletter. We require all attendees to update their registration please and adhere to the terms and conditions.

Our wrap around care is a non-profit making facility, provided to serve the community and the needs of our families. We have regrettably raised our prices, to cover increased costs both in food and building supplies. To protect this service, we ask that all invoices are settled by the end of each week. If an invoice is not settled by the end of the term, we regret that we will not be able to continue to provide care for your child the following term. If you settle the invoice and wish for your child to continue in the provision, there is a £20 penalty charge applied. Child care vouchers are accepted as well as payment via the Government's Tax – Free Childcare Scheme.

School Meals

School meals continue to be provided by CH & CO.

ALL parents **MUST** register onto the system **whether your child pays for meals, is eligible for Free School Meals or receives UIFSM (All Robins and Blackbirds children).**



School meals is a cashless system. If you pay for meals, **there must always be sufficient funds on your account** in order for your child to be provided with a school meal. Once registered you will be able to see the menus being provided on a rolling 3-week menu throughout the term.

If your circumstances have changed and you are entitled to any benefits, you may be entitled to free school meals. Please do make this application, even if your child is in Robins or Blackbirds. Your application will attract extra funding for your child to be supported in not only the provision of their meals, but also costs of trips, activities and additional tuition if required. The government has continued to provide families entitled to free school meals with supermarket vouchers during school breaks. Every little helps and if you are entitled, please do take advantage. The application is quick and easy to do and you receive an instant decision. The link is:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

School Diary

The school diary is attached for your convenience. We have tried to be well planned and detail the entire academic year ahead. Please use this as a guide and bear with us if we have to make any changes. We will always update you if this needs to happen.

School Uniform

A reminder that we have a stock of pre-loved uniform, kindly donated to us. We will put this out again during the course of this week. It is free of charge! Please have a look and help yourself! Remember that the only thing wrong with it, is that it is too small for the child that previously loved it.

A reminder that our only school uniform requirements are a logo red sweatshirt and a logo team coloured T shirt. Everything else is white and grey and can be purchased in departmental stores, on line and in supermarkets. The same is true of shoes, which should be black. Black trainer shoes are acceptable. Hair must be tied back. No jewellery please. Permitted earrings are one small stud. Watches are permitted but **not** Smart watches that can connect to the internet and take photographs.

On PE days, children should come to school in their active uniform. This is red shorts/jogging bottoms with coloured house team shirt. In Key stage 2, children may wear black jogging bottoms (non-branded!) Hair must be tied back and all jewellery removed (including earrings) If children have their earrings in, they will be asked to remove them. If they are unable, we will ask you to come to school and remove them. If your child has had their ears pierced over the summer holidays, please provide us with a letter to advise us that the earrings cannot yet be removed (if this is the case) and consent to your child participating in PE lessons.

And if you should have any surplus, outgrown clothes that you would like to recycle to a good cause, we will be having a Bags to School Collection on **Tuesday 26th September**. The information is attached! Please help us in challenging times to raise funds for our school by simply recycling! We are saving our planet too!





I end, wishing everyone a Happy New School Year! The year is bound to bring its happiness, sadness, high times and low times. Please do remember that we are here to support you at all times. Come and talk to us. When you have concerns or complaints, please make appointments to share these so that we can give our full attention to the matter. This should be with the class teacher in the first instance. There

teething problems and if these do not display themselves at the start of the year, it is likely they will arise in a wobble at some time. Don't panic. A problem shared....

Please do trust us to address issues as and when they arise in the best interests of your child. The children are at the heart of everything that we do and stand for. They are why we do this job. We do not underestimate the responsibility undertaken and the sheer privilege of nurturing your treasured and cherished children.

We look forward to making this year a happy and fulfilling one for each and every child in our care and the community that we serve.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'T. Jerome'.

Mrs. T. Jerome: Headteacher