

September 2020 Newsletter

Welcome Back

All the children have made a superb start to the new academic year and have positively embraced the challenges faced in these unprecedented times. Coming back to school can be quite daunting, but with everyone working together I am sure everything will continue to run very smoothly. However, if there are any concerns please contact school to speak with Mrs Allinson, Mrs Oldroyd, your child's teacher through Dojo or Tapestry and me through email. Thank you for everyone's continued support so far.

Safety procedure reminders

PARKING: With the weather deteriorating and more children travelling to school by car, please can we ask that everyone parks considerately and that local drive ways are not blocked. Also, with the amount of people congregating at the front of school it is imperative that no one parks on or near the crossing or in the entrance into school.

MASK WEARING: From the publication of this newsletter we would strongly recommend that anyone coming onto the school campus to collect children **should now be wearing a mask**.

BACK PACKS: As has been previously mentioned, **children should not be bringing back packs into school**. We are aware that this can cause some difficulties. However, with the children having to keep all their belongings on their seat or on the floor under their seat, the classrooms are not big enough to cope with 30 back packs and these can be a trip hazard in the classroom.

DROP OFF and COLLECTION: To continue to keep everyone safe and to reduce footfall in school, only one adult can accompany a child on or off the school premises at the start and end of the day.

BICYCLES and SCOOTERS

We are aware that the children love to come to school on scooters and bicycles and it is lovely to see especially when it is good weather. The issue that we have is that to access the bicycles sheds some children have to cross bubbles and areas of school that they should be accessing at the present time. So, in the short term we would request that children do not bring scooters and bicycles to school until we have adequate storage provision in all areas of school.

We are confident that we are doing our best to ensure the safety for all and we continue to update our risk assessment and follow the latest government guidance. These are certainly challenging times for us all, and the vigilance of all who enters school.

Tea Time Club Trial

I am delighted to let you know that we are in the process of finalising our plans for starting our Tea Time Club. Initially this would be open to EYFS, Y2 and Y4 only. I am aware that this won't support everyone but we have to ensure, where possible, that we do not cross contaminate any bubbles by having year groups mixing or staff crossing bubbles. After the initial trial and as long as we can keep everyone safe, the plan would be to open the club up to all year groups. The club would run from the end of school until 445pm to give us enough time to clean areas that have been used. The cost would be £4 per session and the children would be offered a Snack Shack style snack and a drink. We will email out a start date as soon as it is confirmed.

Questionnaires

Many thanks for everyone completing the Computer Questionnaire. The information received will be used for us to ensure, in the case of another lock down, that everyone can access home learning. Over the coming weeks we will be sending some more links to a questionnaire about home learning and wrap around care. Please can I ask as many people as possible to complete these simple questionnaires as it does give us valuable information for us to assess how we provide some very important services.

Use of Social Media

Allerton Bywater is an amazing school where the children make great progress in their learning through collaborative working and open lines of communication between school, parents and their children. At the moment, we use email, text, Twitter, Dojo, Tapestry and the website together with paper copies of letters to ensure communication across school is as effective as it can be.

However, the reverse of this is true for schools when people post concerns or opinions on social media which can often inflame situations rather than solve them. I am very grateful to everyone who has come and made an appointment to see me about a concern they may have had. This keeps everything private and confidential and is the correct way to have concerns addressed.

This is just a quick reminder to let you know that if anyone has any worries, issues or concerns regarding school, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time rather than posting these issues on social media. We will always endeavour to work with people to solve whatever their concerns may be to ensure all children reach their full potential and school runs as effectively as it can.

FAB and Other Key Dates

The Friend of Allerton Bywater are still trying hard to ensure that there are opportunities for some fund raising this year after they managed to provide £5000 for school to repair and replace the surface underneath the play trail during the summer. We are all very grateful for FABs efforts.

Although we will not be able to visit Church for our Harvest and Christmas Festivals or have Christmas Fair, FAB have come up with an amazing idea of a "Virtual Balloon Race" where everyone can buy a virtual balloon and then on a set date all the balloons will be released (virtually) and at the end, the balloon which travels the furthest is the winner. FAB will be producing some more information this week with payments being made online. Balloons will cost £2 each.

World Mental Health Day this year is on the 10th October with us celebrating the day in school on the 9th October. On that day we would like the children to wear yellow. To help us raise some money for Mental Health Charities, staff will have some buckets available for your donations. All money collected will be left until the following week before counting.

Parents Evening

At the moment we are working on our plans for parent's evening in the last week of October before the half term break. At the moment we are planning to hold Google Meets with each parent and child. We are just working through the logistics of these so it easy to set up and access for all. As soon as the plans are finalised we will email out how to book your slot.

Contact Details

I cannot stress how important it is that we have current and up-to-date phone numbers and contact details for every child in school at all times. If any of the contact details that we have for you have changed over the holidays, you must let us have the new information as soon as possible. Failure to do so can often pose problems when we need to contact you regarding your child. We also communicate with the school community through text messages however our text message service only permits 300 characters per message. Longer messages have to be broken down into two or three messages. Our email service will continue to be used to share newsletters and other notes.

To Finish With...

At the moment, and for the foreseeable future, we are going to be living under strange and curious rules and regulations that we all need to adhere to keep us all safe. I am humbled every day by **everyone's** commitment to make school run efficiently, effectively and safely, and for that I am very grateful. Last week we had nearly 440 children in school learning with adults who they are familiar with and whom they trust. It is wonderful to see and fingers crossed this can continue for as long as possible.

Stay safe

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Bikes and scotters

Parents evening