



LIONEL WALDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Headteacher - Mrs Sally-Anne Barnard-Taylor

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Dear Parents/Carers

Return to School

I am writing to you at the end of the first week to say how well our children have settled into school, some of them after having had a long period at home. They are adapting very well to new routines and appear to enjoy being back in the classroom and spending time with their friends. There are a few points which need clarifying, following questions from parents/carers:-

Staggered entry and exit at the beginning of the school day

The steady arrival of parents/carers and children has enabled social distancing to take place. Only one parent/carer to accompany children to school, to minimise numbers waiting on the pavements and around the gate, wherever possible please. As soon as you have collected your child, please vacate the area to enable staff to see who is still waiting, thank you.

School bags

Where possible, children should carry their water bottle and reading book in their hands - their water bottle is placed on their desk and their reading book is kept in their tray on their desk. The cloakrooms are not in use and pupils are required to store any bags they bring with them under their desks. We understand that if your child is also bringing in a snack or their own lunch, a small bag will be necessary - that is absolutely fine - however, some bags are quite large with hardly anything in them. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

Water bottles

We encourage all children to bring in their own water bottle for health and hygiene reasons. Water is preferred but weak squash is permitted. Please note that staff are encouraging children to drink and keep hydrated at set times throughout the day rather than drinking as and when; this is to prevent them having to have frequent trips to the toilet and to ensure that, whilst they are being taught during valuable lesson time, they are not distracted by their drinking bottles. It is all about getting the right balance. Additional water is provided, should they finish the contents of their own bottle.



Use of toilets

Children are encouraged to visit the toilets during breaks and lunchtimes. This is particularly important at the moment as the toilets are cleaned between use by different bubbles and additionally, as required. Of course, if a child needs to visit more frequently than this, they are allowed, however, we are keen for them to remain in class whilst teaching is taking place.

Reading books

Our library cannot be freely accessed as before and so each classroom has a selection of books which are changed weekly by staff. Staff have endeavoured to ensure that each child has appropriate reading material to read in school and to take home. There will obviously be a period of adjustment - please bear with us as we hear all children read and assess their confidence and competency; the ability to decode words and level of comprehension is important. Reading remains a priority and your support through the period of school closure is evident - thank you for continuing with this. Please continue to hear your child read on a daily basis and ask questions to check their understanding of the text.

School lunches

Bev and Donna, our school caterers, have worked hard to provide lunches for a high number of our children this week. Thank you for your support - it is important to us. The feedback has been very positive from pupils and parents/carers. At the moment, the menu remains the same each week. This is to assist with the current arrangements and the children having to eat in their classrooms. Please note that if your child really does not like a particular sandwich filling, if you liaise with Mrs Clarke in the School Office, an alternative can be arranged.

Please re-iterate to your children how pleased we are with how they have started the term and how important it is to continue to follow the hygiene procedures and routines. Now that these have been rehearsed, greater focus can be given to extending the teaching and supporting the children in lessons and with specific needs.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email the School Office. We appreciate your understanding and thank you for your messages of support and positive feedback.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

S A Barnard-Taylor

Mrs S A Barnard-Taylor
Headteacher

