



8.9.2023

Dear Parents,

Our first week has been a busy one and the children have coped so well. Some tired children and adults by Friday. We are particularly proud of our Reception class who are settling well into their new class and routines and the staff will let you know when they are ready to use the gate as the entrance. A warm welcome to all our new families in Reception and across school. We have welcomed children into Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4 this week.

School Website – Class Pages

Each class has their own class website page. Please check there for lots of useful information.

PE Days

I emailed earlier today with the PE Days for each class. Remember that Years 4, 5 & 6 can wear PE Kits each day for the next two weeks.

Judo

This afternoon Ann from Judo Education came to talk to the KS2 children about Judo. She did an exciting taster assembly. A club before school begins shortly but places are limited. Your child should have received a letter. Always a popular one.

Earrings

Despite several reminders, there are still children in school wearing earrings. I know that we are often thought to be kill joys insisting on this rule so here is the advice we and a lot of other schools and coaching facilities follow:

The 2020 edition of [‘Safe Practice: in Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity \(PESSPA\)’](#) is written by the Association for Physical Education (afPE) every four years, it is the essential reference and developmental tool, for everyone, offering up-to-date advice to help teachers, coaches and school governors protect their students and themselves from potential risks across both the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

“Schools have a duty of care to ensure students are able to participate actively without unnecessarily endangering themselves or those working around them. The Association for Physical Education (afPE) strongly recommends the practice of removing all personal effects at the commencement of every lesson to establish a safe working environment. This applies to all ear and body piercings, including retainer and expander earrings.”

Young children can’t always take earrings out - a teacher shouldn’t be taking earrings out either. The 2020 version goes on to say: “Staff are not required to remove or tape up earrings for students. Taping over ear and body piercings may offer a measure of protection in some physical activity situations, where individuals are required to work within their own personal space. However, the amount of tape used needs to be sufficient to prevent the piercing penetrating, for example, the bone behind the ear should an unintentional blow be received from someone or some item of equipment, such as a ball.”

The removal of earrings by children is something we would wish to avoid as children often find it difficult and any loss of them would cause upset. Children use PE equipment at playtimes and lunchtimes which is why we prefer to have a blanket ban on earrings in school.

If your child has had their ears pierced recently then they may put plaster or tape over them until they are able to be taken out and left out all day. This is usually between 6 and 8 weeks.

Label, Label, Label!

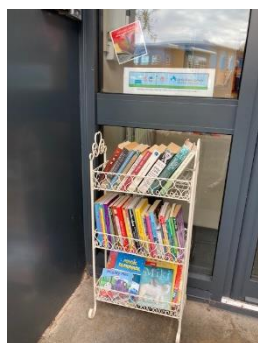
We already have some lost property and because it is not labelled it is not easily returned. Anything your child may take off or put down **MUST** be labelled.

Wednesday Word

On a Wednesday we share a Values Assembly with the children. These are the six values that represent our school: **love ~ responsibility ~ respect ~ creativity ~ joy ~ opportunity**

In the Wednesday assembly we share examples of these values in action either from within school or the wider world. This half term our focus is '**love**'. For our families, friends, brothers and sisters around the world and our Earth, our common home.

Tiny Library



A reminder that outside school, by the front door you will find our Tiny Library. It has three shelves and will be outside unless it is raining. The top shelf will have books for grown ups, the middle shelf will have books for our older children and the bottom shelf is for our younger children or siblings not yet in school. The books are free. You may take them, read or share them and pass them on or return them in the same condition. We top up the books often so will also ask for donations of books we can put in our Tiny Library. Just drop off any books in good condition in a bag to the office or leave by the Tiny Library and we will sort them.

Parents' Evenings

In a few weeks' time you will be able to make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher at our Autumn Parents' Evening, details will follow. There will be an opportunity for you to look at your child's work before your appointment time as well as their classroom environment.

Mrs McEniff's weekly Letters

I aim to write to you once a week with celebrations, news, information and the odd moan! The letter is emailed and also saved on the website under the 'Parents' tab – 'Letters to Parents.'

Uniform

The children all looked very smart coming into school this week. Some sore heels from new shoes but apart from that all was well. A few children in white shirts without ties. Red ties can be purchased from the school office and are on the School Gateway. Ties with elastic are £3.75 and full ties are £4.

Swimming Y4, 5 & 6

For the next two weeks Years 4, 5 & 6 children will be swimming every day. You may have seen photographs of our new changing facilities on our Facebook page.

For the next two weeks Years 4, 5 and 6 come to school everyday in their PE kit.

They will need:

Swimming costume or trunks		Flip flops, crocs or sliders	
towel		Swimming cap – this is insisted upon by the pool company. They can be bought for £3 from the school office on Monday	
Bathrobe or dressing gown			

Nut Free School

Just a reminder that we like most schools are a nut free school. We have children with severe allergies to nuts in school and the start of the year is a good time to remind everyone. Our school kitchen is nut free and we ask that all healthy snacks brought into school as well as packed lunches do not contain nuts. Please do not give your children peanut butter or Nutella type spreads. Staff in school bring in nut free lunches too. Please check all snacks for nuts. Thank you.

Pick Up Arrangements to Safeguard all our Children

There is no parking at the front of school for pick up.

The front of school is for Pre-School pickup and can be used by blue badge holders if the designated spaces are full.

Thank you to those families who have bought tickets for the St Nicholas playground car park for the term or the year. These tickets can be purchased on School Gateway at 70p per day or £35 for the term.

St Nicholas insist that we park the cars in a certain way so please follow the instructions for parking given by our staff.

From Monday all passes will be checked. If you do not have a pass, you will be asked to park off campus and walk down. On Friday we had cars parked at the front of school which is not fair on those parents who pay to park on the St Nicholas playground or who park off site and walk down.

Parking on the yellow hashed area is dangerous, please do not park there. Traffic exits the other schools on the campus and crosses the hatched area making it unsafe to walk across. Staff in school witnessed a car parked at the front reversing into the hashed area as children were being walked across it this afternoon.

God Bless you and your families.

Justine McEniff Headteacher

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10