

24<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents,

This week definitely feels like autumn term as the weather is turning, and there is a feeling of more 'normality' in school. Today is photograph day; and yesterday we held our elections for House Captains and Councillors. Congratulations to all those who were elected by their peers, and thank you to all children who put themselves forward as candidates. Although this year will be a different experience from previous ones, we aim to continue to ensure a strong pupil voice and sense of belonging.

This week concludes week two of our orientation period. The children are all working hard and enjoying their learning activities. The teachers are addressing the already identified areas in which the children are not as secure in their learning as we would like them to be. Over the next week all classes will re-introduce the full curriculum as I explained in the letter of 10<sup>th</sup> September. Early in October the children will complete some tests and tasks to further identify any areas of learning 'gaps'. These are not to be a cause for concern and will form part of the usual school day.

Thank you to all parents who are continuing to respect social distancing on the playground and in the environs of the school. Sadly some adults are not always complying with this, and we would appreciate it if everyone would follow the requirements that adults - and children from different classes who are not siblings and not being collected by a child-minder - remain at two metres distance for the safety of everyone. May I also remind you that all outside equipment is out of bounds at present and the children (and adults) should not be sitting or standing on the equipment at the beginning or end of the school day whilst waiting for their entry time or their siblings. These rules have to be in place to minimise the risk to all children, staff and parents. We do request that only one parent drops off or collects a child, and any younger siblings who need to accompany you must be close to you at all times. This again helps to minimise the risks to us all.

Thank you also for your co-operation regarding bags. There have been fewer incidents of staff and children being at risk from falling over inappropriate bags in the classrooms.

We are currently working to improve our school website and from this week letters and information will be on the news tab not on a page under the parent tab. We are also planning a Covid-19 page on which we will place information and links to relevant Government information. We will do our utmost to keep it up to date as quickly as we can, and hope that you will find it helpful. We have implemented a clear protocol for visitors to the school regarding wearing of face coverings, which is in the reception area and will be added to the website as soon as possible. Names and contact details of all visitors will be taken and held for the time required by the Government track and trace guidance before being destroyed. We are working on the requirements placed on us by the introduction today of the Track and Trace app.

These are very challenging times for us all. We are doing all we can to support the children and to enable them to feel safe and to learn with their peers. We are also here to support you and the family too. I have included at the end of this letter details from Barnardo's which some families may find useful.

I do hope you noticed the message regarding fruit snacks and lunches. The provided fruit is stored appropriately prior to snack times, and is not handled by anyone other than by the child about to eat it. Our younger children are enjoying this snack in the afternoon as they are not ready for lunch if they have fruit mid-morning. Lunches are available for order in the usual way, and offer a balanced meal for the children. As always, some children eat less than is offered, and – despite what they may tell you – they are enjoying social time as well as eating their lunch. We are continuing to work with our supplier of lunches, sharing the feedback we receive from the children.

I have been requested by the DfE to remind parents who may be considering a holiday at half term to pay due attention to the travel and quarantine restrictions as school attendance is now statutory.

I was pleased that we were able to meet with our parents of children in YR this week as is our custom, even though it was all at social distance. Could Y6 parents please note that the Secondary School Selection Tests will take place the first week back after half term as previously notified. To give the children the best opportunity to be settled back, I am planning the practise papers will be taken on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November with the actual papers on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November.

I am very pleased to share with you that work will begin next week on our school field. We are adding to our provision for the children by having an all-weather running track installed round the perimeter of the field. These works will be managed in a safe way for the well-being of the school and the contractors; and we expect the work to take approximately three weeks to complete. Please be aware that there may be additional vehicles in the vicinity during this time. I am sure the children will enjoy this new facility once it is available for use, and will allow classes to resume running a mile weekly – though just not all together.

I do hope you all enjoy the weekend. We will continue to keep you informed as we are made aware of things or as requested to by the Government organisations. Together we will come through this challenging times.

Mrs K. Tamlyn

Head Teacher

### **Barnardo's 'See, Hear, Respond' service**

See, Hear, Respond is a service provided across England by Barnardo's and other national and local community-based organisations in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

See, Hear, Respond, provides support to children, young people and their families who aren't currently seeing a social worker or other agency, and who are struggling to cope with the emotional impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19). See, Hear, Respond will support from pre-birth up to 18 years of age and those with special educational needs under the age of 25.

See, Hear, Respond will contact every referral made, so no child is missed. Help is available in one or more of four ways:

- › an online hub of support and information
- › online counselling and therapy
- › face-to-face support for those most affected and at risk of some of today's most pertinent issues, such as criminal exploitation, and
- › helping children and young people reintegrate back into school

You can access via the 'See, Hear, Respond' service [self-referral webpage](#) or Freephone 0800 151 7015.