

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents,

The children have now settled into their curriculum learning following our 'Good to be Us' work at the start of the term. It has been a real pleasure to see their enthusiasm and engagement.

It was a pleasure to meet with YR parents this week, and also for Y3 to venture out to Hazard Alley. More visits are planned as the world cautiously re-opens. I would like to assure all parents that we continue to plan carefully with due consideration for the safety and well-being of the children.

Our new Councils will be meeting very soon. I was so impressed with the number of children who put themselves forward as candidates for both our Councils and our House Captains. Thank you to all who stood, and congratulations to those who were democratically elected. As Returning Officer, I can testify to how close the results were!

This newsletter contains a number of important reminders and new information which I would ask you to note:

As you will be aware, the children have a log-in to our Virtual Learning Environment. The teachers use this platform to share information about the learning as well as details of homework activities etc; and each class has a chat-room facility on the VLE. Please can I remind you that this is for the children to use to contact each other or their teacher. It is not a communication channel for parents. Should you wish to contact the teacher, then please do so via a new email address of [admin@cheddington.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cheddington.bucks.sch.uk) and your message will reach the member of staff.

Historically when celebrating a birthday, children have brought sweets or small treats into school to share with their peers, which had to stop during the past year due to the restrictions during the pandemic. After very thoughtful consideration we have taken the decision that sharing of birthday sweets or treats can no longer be permitted moving forward. Anything handed out in school is ultimately our responsibility, and we now have a significant number of children, almost a fifth of the school cohort, across all classes with specific identified allergies or dietary requirements. It has therefore become impractical for us to ensure the safety of all children around birthday treats.

It has been brought to my attention that on several mornings there have been a number of dogs just outside the gate as the children are arriving. Whilst I am the first to agree that combining a walk to school and a dog walk is a great option, please could I request that our four-legged community members do not crowd round the gate. A number of our children (and I am sure some parents also) are a little afraid of dogs, and feeling unsafe coming into school is not what any of us would like. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

You will be aware that our uniform policy states: 'Hair accessories to hold back long hair should be discrete, in school colours, and sit close to the child's head for safety reasons.' In addition, in the class newsletters we stress that long hair must be tied back for PE for Health and Safety reasons. However, we would now also ask for your co-operation regarding children with longer hair for during their class learning. A number of the fashionable hair styles at present mean that hair is 'flopping' over the children's eyes as they

look up to the board then down to their work. This is not good for their vision and results in the child having to constantly adjust their hair so that they can see – a massive distraction to themselves and to their peers. During their time in school, please could you ensure that, if your child has longer hair, then they come to school with suitable accessories which keep it from their eyes and face. Thank you.

We are looking forward to celebrating National Poetry Day in a couple of weeks' time; and please do check the calendar for other events. One important event not on the calendar sent out at the beginning of term is the PTA AGM. This is at 7:30pm next Monday – 27<sup>th</sup> September – in the school hall. All parents are automatically members of the PTA and – after so many restrictions on activities during the worst of the pandemic – it will be exciting to have new events to discuss and look forward to. The old adage of 'many hands make light work' is a truism – and I do hope many of you will be able to attend.

Mrs K. Tamlyn  
Head Teacher