



30th September 2020

Newsletter No. 4

Dear Parents/Carers,

I trust that you are all well and feeling positive about the new school year as we reach the end of September. It has been lovely to see the children get back into the swing of school and have the 'buzz' back in the building. I am able to update you about a number of matters and these are identified below.

Parents' Evening Arrangements

We have considered the best way to hold our Autumn term parents' evening appointments. It is a great shame that, as we feared, we are not able to hold face to face meetings because of the current Covid-19 restrictions. Instead we intend to hold 1:1 Zoom meetings with teachers in week beginning 12th October. The arrangements are as follows:

- Your child's teacher will send out a Microsoft forms survey before the end of this week for you to indicate which day and approximate time slot would be most preferable for you. For new parents/carers, please be aware that it may not be possible to give you the exact time you would like as several parents might opt for the same time. We need one reply per pupil.
- We ask that parents who are separated make every effort to share an appointment time. This will mean liaising with each other before replying to the survey. In these cases we only need one reply per pupil. We are aware that this might not be possible, or appropriate in every case.
- Replies to the survey will need to be made by Tuesday 6th October and then individual appointment times will be emailed out before the end of that week, together with a link for the appropriate Zoom meetings.
- There will be one Zoom link per class, per evening selected and parents/carers are asked to join the 'waiting room' 5 minutes before their appointment time.
- Staff are going to try very hard to keep to time and parents/carers can help us with this by being prompt and not letting their appointment run over 10 minutes.
- Sadly, it will not be possible to share children's work with you at this stage but obviously we will be focussing on how well the children have settled into their new classes and how they are performing.
- Parents/Carers are asked to sign in to the Zoom meeting using their child's name otherwise it will not be possible to admit them to the meeting.
- We ask that Zoom protocols are followed and that all participants are suitably dressed and respectful. I am aware that some parents have found this advice to be a little patronising and I am sorry but we have experienced one or two unfortunate situations.

Year 1 Dinners

By now, parents and carers of children in year 1 should have received a survey regarding school dinners. As term settles down and some of the children's routines speed up, we are now able to accommodate Foundation, year 1 and year 5 for school dinners. Year 1 will be starting their school dinners from Wednesday 7th October and we really hope that we can move towards additional year groups having school dinners in the future.

'Drop Off Window' and Double Gate Exit

The new 'drop off window' (8:35 to 8:55) appears to be a resounding success and we are grateful for parents' patience. It was not possible to do this from the start of term as we had to show families all the new procedures and how we wanted people to move on site. The new system has certainly reduced waiting time to a minimum and has relieved some of the pressure that can be experienced at the beginning of the day. **We do, however, need to remind families not to arrive before 8:35** (unless you are dropping children off for Swimming on a Wednesday). A knock on effect of the recent success is that we can now move the Foundation drop off window to 8:50 – 9:00 each morning. Again, this should eliminate the need for parents and carers to wait.

On the infant playground, we are changing the arrangements at the double gate so that it can be used for entry and exit. Please follow the arrows that are being put in place. The single woodland gate is still for entry only.

Claiming Free School Meals

All children in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a 'universal' free school meal. Obviously at the moment, in Year 1 (until Wednesday) and Year 2 these free school meals are available in a packed lunch format. However, it is also very important that those families who are entitled to a free school meal due to meeting the financial criteria, register with the Local Authority. This won't make any difference to obtaining a meal until year 3 but it will mean that

the school receives extra funding for your child. To check whether you are eligible, please contact Nottinghamshire County Council online [here](#) or by phone on 0300 500 80 80.

PTA

Many families will have enjoyed taking part in fund raising events organised by the school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) in the past and this has raised valuable additional funds for the school. At present, the PTA have donated a considerable amount of money to help support the extra costs experienced by the school as a result of the Coronavirus situation. They helped to fund the large marquee tents in the summer, additional musical instruments needed in order to prevent the cross bubbling of resources and have now completely paid for additional workbooks that we intend to use if the school or a bubble has to close for a period of time. In a difficult time, it is really good to know we have such positive support. Thank you.

First Aid

We are currently trialling a different system for communicating with parents when their child has been treated with first aid in school. For normal minor injuries, the children will be given a green wristband to notify parents/carers of a minor accident at school. For head bumps, the wristband will be red. Obviously, in the rare event of a serious accident we would still phone parents/carers.

Domestic Abuse

We have recently received this information from Broxtowe Women's Project which I am delighted to pass on to you all.

Broxtowe Women's Project supports female survivors of current and historic domestic abuse who live or work within Broxtowe Borough. This service is free of charge, we aim to respond to your call the same day and would like to offer our support to your school, for both staff and parents. The referral process is quick and easy - you can self-refer, or with their agreement refer a colleague or parent. We provide the following services –

- *Phone / zoom outreach sessions with a dedicated outreach worker who will listen and provide individualised support based on need*
- *Safety planning - assessing risk and putting plans in place to improve safety*
- *Advice and support with housing / legal aid / benefits / police issues / Family Court*
- *Support following outreach work including befriending / counselling and well-being events*
- *Freedom Programme – 6-week programme to learn more about domestic abuse*
- *Business support to raise awareness for your staff team*
- *Partners Newsletter*

We understand it can be difficult for anyone to admit to struggling with domestic abuse - making the first call for help can be difficult. We promise to listen, believe, and do all that we can to empower you to have a better life free from the torment of abuse.

Contact us –

Support line 01773 719111

Mobile 07914 634190

Email enquiries@broxtowewp.org

Website – www.broxtowewomensproject.org.uk

INSET days

We would just like to remind parents of the remaining INSET days for the year which are:

Monday 5th October 2020

Monday 5th July 2021

Wednesday 28th July 2021

I hope the above information is helpful and keeps you informed about what is happening in school.

Yours faithfully,



Pete Taylor
Head Teacher