

Newsletter

Summer 2021 Return

SCHOOLS BACK FROM SUMMER



Dear Parent / Carer

I would like to say a HUGE welcome back to school after what was not too bad a summer weather wise! We all at least managed to catch a few sunny days. It was so lovely to be able to welcome back our pupils and staff into school and catch up with what everyone was able to do over the summer break. At least some of the Covid rules started to ease over the summer holidays and people were able to catch up with friends and family they may not have managed to see for some time. I do hope you all managed to do something nice as I know that going away was not an option for everyone and also some people may not be comfortable with the relaxed rules as yet.

STAFFING

We would like to say a nice big 'Hello and Welcome' to our NQT, Miss Erin Murray. Miss Murray is teaching our P4A class this year. She is not entirely new to us as she did part of her teaching placement with us in 2019 with one of our P7 teachers but it is so nice to have her back as our NQT.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Our Deputy Head Teachers remain as Mrs Laura Birrell and Miss Ruth Johnson. Miss Johnson is overseeing P1-P4 and Mrs Birrell P5-P7. We would ask that if you have an issue with regards to your child, please speak with your child's class teacher first and only if you cannot seek a resolution you ask to speak with our Depute Heads.

COMMUNICATION



I hope that by now you have read our letter regarding the school moving to email communication as the main means of getting information to parents/carers as from 21st September. As per our letter, it is very important that the main contact email address for each child is kept bang up to date at

all times. As mentioned, there will be times where we need to send out paper letters and use text messaging but we aim to use email where possible. Please therefore check your email regularly.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

We are currently working on our School Improvement Plan and in particular the development of writing, digital and nurture in school. Please look out for information over the coming months of how we plan to take this forward.



COVID

Important : please can you make yourself aware of the new rules regarding the rule changes with COVID. We posted a letter from the NHS on our website and school APP with information regarding this.

HEALTH & SAFETY



Last week, we issued a newsletter regarding general health and safety in school and some 'house-keeping' guidance. Please can you make yourself familiar with the information in this newsletter. The guidance in this leaflet is important to the smooth running of the school and most importantly keeps pupils, staff and parents safe.

SCHOOL CAR PARK

We have just returned from our summer break but I am already needing to remind all parents/carers of the issues we are experiencing in our school car park. I must re-iterate to all parents/carers that the school Car Park **should not be used** for dropping off or picking up school children – **there is a notice to this effect displayed in the car park which is for staff and professionals visiting only.**



Also, the area must be free for any emergency vehicles to gain access should an incident occur (and this has happened). This is an important Health & Safety issue. We have already had near misses. **We do not want to put children at risk of being hit by a car manoeuvring in what is a very busy area.**

If the car park continues to be used as a convenient drop off and pick up point then we will have no option but to close the gates at the start and end of the school day. Even if your child is late for school, the car park should not be used to drop off – please park safely outside the school car park.

We have previously advised everyone that we are aware that the volume of cars parked when picking up children at the end of the day affects access along Polton Avenue Road. Please ensure that your car is parked safely – in particular that our Crossing Patrol's view is not obscured. No parking is permitted in front of the Block 1 gates which access the playground. This access should be free to aid the Crossing Patrol as well as for emergency vehicles should they ever be required. We would also ask that you do not park across local resident's driveways to ensure local residents do not complain. The designated parking area for the school is at the rear of the school in Argyle Place.

Midlothian Council have contacted us and in with conjunction with the police we will be running a Park Smart campaign in school very soon.

PARENT COUNCIL MEETINGS



The dates for our Parent Council Meetings this year are 15th September 2021 , 3rd November 2021, 9th February 2022 and 4th May 2022. As things stand at the moment with COVID, these meetings will be held virtually but if things change we will let you know. If you wish to be issued with the meeting code so you can join any of the meetings, please email our Parent Council who will arrange to send you the code. Their email address is Hawthorndenparentcouncil@gmail.com

PARENT CHARTER

Please can I refer you to the attached document and ask that you read the attached Parent Charter.

DATA CHECK FORMS/PERMISSION FORMS

Our school office recently issued data check forms/permission forms and requested that these be returned by the end of the week commencing 30 August 2021. Massive thank you to those who have already returned these forms fully completed. If you have not already done so, please make sure you complete these forms fully and return them immediately.

In the past, our office have sometimes had to issue these forms 3 or 4 times to some parents before finally having them sent back completed. Please, please do not delay the return of these forms as our office should not be having to re-issue these forms over and over.

We would ask respectfully, that you please return any form/return slips by the due date given.

Finally, I would like to add that this will be my first full school year as your new Head Teacher and I am extremely proud and excited to face the challenges ahead and work together with the children, staff and parents to move the school forward in a positive direction.

Kind Regards

Jackie Mellon

Head Teacher