



Dear parents/ carers

Happy new (school) year! It was lovely welcoming all the children back to school on Monday – and welcoming the new children who have joined us. Nearly every class has had new children join over the summer and it was really great to see their smiling faces as they left school on their first days.

As ever, there is a lot of information in this first letter of the year about both changes and reminders for the year ahead. Please do take the time to read this – and the other letters that have come today and will come in coming days.

The letter with key dates has as many of the currently known dates as possible – we will do all we can to stick to these dates – but inevitably some may have to change as we move through the year. Paper copies of these dates are available on request.

Class Dojo

We will send a letter about Class Dojo on Monday.

We will be starting to use this across the whole school to give you a new window into your child's time in school. It may take a week or 2 to get up and running properly as we all learn how to use it – but please do sign up!

Please do not pay for any Class Dojo extras. Dojo is completely free – but does have add-ons! The Dojo App is available on both Apple and Android.

Consents

We want to review the consents/ permissions we gain from you as parents. There are some consents we feel are missing – and others where they are recorded differently in each year group. Please [follow this link](#) to give updated consents for your child(ren) – you can do the whole family on 1 form. It should only take a few minutes at most.

You can see consents you have given – and check your details are all accurate on the Arbor App – please do download this and log in (it's very easy – and is on both Apple and Android) – we also use the App for parents evening bookings.

Retreats and Class Celebration of the Word

We have changed how we will prepare for class Celebration of the Word. The week before the CotW children will have an on-site retreat – led by Mr Lowson, our chaplain – that will then prepare their CotW to celebrate with parents.

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For I know the plans I have for you; plans to give you hope and a future – Jeremiah 29:11



Part of the retreat will be time in forest school and will be outside.... I know the children will gain a lot from these sessions both spiritually and in many other ways. On these days, children will need to be in non-uniform in clothes that are able to get dirty – they will also need footwear suitable for outside on the field – whatever the weather! The forest school session may include den building, making fire and outdoor crafting.

On the day of the CotW, we will open the hall at 8:30am for the parents of the class and children (and siblings) for a class breakfast, with tea, coffee, juice and breakfast snacks.

Please see the key dates for the dates of your child's retreats and class celebration of the word....

The first ones are:

Year 6 – retreat Wednesday 17th Sept;
CotW Wednesday 24th Sept (8:30 for breakfast; 9:15 for assembly)

Year 4 – retreat Wednesday 1st Oct;
CotW Wednesday 8th Oct (8:30 for breakfast; 9:15 for assembly)

Year 2 – retreat Wednesday 15th Oct;
CotW Wednesday 22nd Oct (8:30 for breakfast; 9:15 for assembly)

All classes will have 2 retreats over the course of the year.

Instrument tuition

In an exciting addition to our curriculum, all children in Year 3 and 4 will be having whole class instrument tuition for the year. They will learn a trumpet (or similar brass instrument). The first few weeks are more about musicianship – but Year 3 and 4 children will soon be able to bring home their instrument! Lessons will be on a Tuesday, and they will start on 23rd September. More details to follow!!

Uniform

Thank you for making sure your children are in their full uniform to start the school year.

Please make sure that your child does have their PE kit with them in school every day. They should also not be wearing earrings other than small studs – these should either be able to be removed or taped up for PE.

A reminder – children are able to wear non-uniform on their birthday (or in the first week of the next half term if their birthday is in the holidays).

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Our fabulous PTFA do sell pre-loved uniform – if you need uniform but want to pay bargain prices and help the school at the same time – pop in to the school office to make an order....

Yours sincerely

Graham Lobb

Headteacher

September:

- Monday 15th – Start of Year Mass 10am at school
- Tuesday 16th – Year 1/2 Compass Workshop
- Wednesday 17th – Year 6 Retreat Day
- Monday 22nd – Meet the Teacher (3:30pm) – a chance to meet your child's new teacher after school in the classroom....
- Wednesday 24th – Year 6 Celebration of the Word (9:15am – preceded by Y6 breakfast at 8:30am – followed by Y6 hoodies measurement)
- Friday 26th – Macmillan Coffee morning (details to follow)
– PFTA AGM (11am)

October:

- Wednesday 1st – Year 4 Retreat Day (Harvest Theme)
- Wednesday 8th – Year 4 Celebration of the Word Harvest theme (9:15am – preceded by Y4 breakfast at 8:30am)
- Friday 10th – World Mental Health Day
- Wednesday 15th – Year 2 Retreat Day
- Wednesday 22nd – Year 2 Celebration of the Word (9:15am – preceded by Y2 breakfast at 8:30am)
– Individual photos
- Thursday 23rd – PTFA Whole School Halloween Disco 4:30pm->

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Friday 24th

- Break up for half term