

6th September 2019

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back!

It has been lovely to see so many smart and eager children bounding back in to school and yesterday was a super first day.

You may have noticed we have been busy over the summer break and have a brand new 'vestibule' which is a much improved reception area for our visitors. We have been working to improve our classrooms in Early Years and Key Stage One and we are pleased with the improvements made. Reception classes now have a dignified changing area that was much needed. We have added space in the classrooms by removing unsightly sinks and our brand new state of the art boilers will keep us all cosy in the colder months.

We have launched our new behaviour system and the children have all been allocated into houses which are named after local rivers – Ouse, Wharfe, Nidd and Swale. The house points system will lead to half termly rewards and if your child is in the winning house they will be able to come in to school on the last day of the term in their own clothes. There will be a treat in store for the winning team in school. We have two lunchtime clubs running and a catch up club for any children who need extra support with their behaviour or attitude to learning.

Congratulations to last year's Oak Class for both the best attendance in the Summer Term and the best overall attendance during last year, what a fantastic achievement! Therefore children who were in Oak class **last year** will have a non-uniform day on Friday 13th September.

We have employed new caterers who are working well with our kitchen team and the menus have been revitalised. Staff have been very impressed with the food on offer so far and children appear to be enjoying the new menus. If you attend our planned Open Afternoons, the kitchen team will be on hand for you with taste tests and we hope that this encourages more of our children to take up the offer of a healthy and hearty school meal.

We have planned a new and exciting curriculum and I look forward to sharing some more information about this in the coming weeks. In a bid to improve communication between home and school, I have invested in school planners for all of our key stage one and two children. You will see that there is a diary in there with spaces for you to write notes for staff. Please remind your child to bring their planners home and back to school every day. The reading records are also included in the planning. The planners are on their way and should arrive in the next few days.

It is going to be an exciting year ahead and we are looking forward to all the amazing things we have planned. Thank you for sending your children back looking so smart and keen to learn. We will start our days now with Collective Worship in the hall following the usual Early Morning Activity in the classes. As ever, punctuality will help set the children up for a good day and thank you for your efforts in ensuring the children come to school on time every day.

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We would ask that you leave your children at the external doors so that we can settle them in classes and have all our teaching staff focus on settling the children into their learning routines. Should you wish to pass on an important message to staff please use the school planners (which will arrive soon) or find myself or Mrs Peacock in the office for a quick chat. Otherwise, teachers will be available at the end of the day once the children have all left their classes.

Attached to this letter are 'Dates for Diary 2019 – 2020' which I hope you will find useful for forward planning. Copies of all letters sent home are put on to the school website for your information and spare paper copies placed in the letter rack in the main entrance.

Year 6 Test Week is from Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May. It is essential that all Year 6 children attend school during this week.

Please note that in line with the national commemoration to mark the 75th VE Day Anniversary we have moved May Day Bank holiday to Friday 8th May.

Could I remind parents that I am unable to authorise term time leave of absence except in exceptional circumstances. Holidays do not constitute exceptional circumstances unfortunately.

A reminder too please that if your child is absent with sickness and diarrhoea that they should not enter school until 48 hours have passed since their last bout of the condition. As often happens in the new term, we have had a bug in school and we would be grateful if you could support us in reminding your child about good personal hygiene, particularly after having used the toilet.

Thank you all for your kind comments about the building work and friendliness in the playground. Mrs Peacock and I will be in the playgrounds before and after school and are always available for a chat if you need us.

Here's to a fabulous year!

Kind regards

Miss Watson
Headteacher

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