



**Headteacher: Melanie Murfin**

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Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a long first half-term of the school year and we are sure that many of our children are ready for a good rest – particularly our youngest learners. The school day is always a busy one. For children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, the children are taught the core curriculum – phonics, reading, writing and maths - throughout the morning so everyone has worked up an appetite by the time we reach lunchtime. During the afternoon sessions, we teach the wider curriculum subjects – history, geography, art, PE, Spanish, music, computing, design & technology and personal social, health & economic (PSHE). We are sure the children will have been telling grown-ups at home all about their learning. During parents' evening, on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, grown-ups will get the opportunity to look through their child's books. We are looking forward to seeing everyone.

Whilst the parents' evenings are taking place, there will be refreshments available in the school hall. Our catering team will also be there offering a taster menu so that parents and carers can get a flavour of our school meal offer. The catering team will also provide help and guidance on packed lunches, to ensure that any packed lunches provide the children with the right fuel to get them through the busy school day.

On the evening, we will also be circulating our annual parent survey and we welcome your feedback for the school year ahead.

### **Attendance Matters**

As mentioned above, each school day is jampacked full of learning and therefore any absence has a huge impact on the children's progress. We know that children who miss out on learning struggle to keep up with their friends and this can make them feel unhappy in school. Our whole school attendance is significantly below the national average. This is a huge concern as it means lots of children are missing valuable learning. We recognise that sometimes children get poorly and are unable to attend school. However, it is really important that when they are well that they are in school every day. We have sent out a large number of attendance monitoring letters and we will be working closely with our Education Welfare Officer to ensure that every child attends school regularly. Term time holidays can not be authorised and these will result in a fine from the local authority.

### **Earrings**

During PE lessons, the children are not allowed to wear earrings for health and safety reasons, as supported by the Association of Physical Education. PE is a national curriculum subject and therefore a compulsory requirement for all children. PE is also important for every child's health and wellbeing therefore all children must participate in all lessons. In order for PE to take place safely, earrings must be removed before the PE lesson. Ideally, parents and carers would remove them before the child comes to school. If that cannot happen, the child must be able to remove their earrings prior to



the lesson starting. School is unable to take any responsibility for the personal items that may be lost as result of the earrings being lost or misplaced.

At the start of next term, we will send out a text message to confirm which day your child's PE lesson takes place so that any earrings can be removed at home. We still ask that PE kits are brought to school at the start of the half term and remain in school until the end of term.

If parents wish for their child to get their ears pierced, we strongly suggest that this is done at the end of July so as to allow the healing process to take place over the summer holiday.

### **Upcoming Dates for your Diary**

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October** – GPA Pumpkin Festival (carved pumpkins, wear something orange or a themed outfit, fun themed lunch menu)

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November** – Parents Evenings

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November** – individual pupil photographs

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November** – Anti Bullying Week (pupils can wear odd socks throughout the week in support)

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November** – Children in Need – (pupils can wear spots or pyjamas - £1 donation with all proceeds to Children in Need charity)

Thank you in advance for your support.

Wishing everyone a lovely half term,

Mrs. M. Murfin  
Headteacher