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Be The Best You Can

11th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year. So much has changed since we last wrote a newsletter and we are all living a life which few of us could have ever expected. When we stick together, we can overcome any challenge which is sent our way and the children have responded magnificently to this particular challenge.

We are very proud of how settled the children already are and will do everything in our power to ensure that all children are at ease from the moment they walk through the gate until the moment they leave. All children, especially in these different and unsettled times, need a consistently calm beginning to their day and we ask you to respect the needs of others as you drop off your children.

Breakfast Club will start on Monday 14th September but there are some key operational changes for you to take note of. Children should arrive for breakfast club between 8am and 8.10am with children in the juniors lining up at the side pedestrian gate (the one by the hospital) and foundation phase children lining up at the main pedestrian gate. Miss Jones will lead in the Juniors and Mrs Butt will lead in the foundation phase and the two groups will remain separated in the hall – so maintaining our contact groups. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions and staffing, any child arriving after 8.10am will be unable to gain access to Breakfast Club. Prices of our Breakfast Club have risen this year to 75p a day per child with a maximum charge of £1.50 per family. I am sure you agree, this still represents incredible value for 50 minutes of childcare. Mrs Butt and Miss Jones may occasionally ask directly, should payment fall behind.

Initially, Breakfast Club will only cater for the children of working parents but we hope to be back at full capacity before too long.

After an absence of close on 6 months, it is inevitable that some children will have fallen behind in their schoolwork. With that in mind, we will be assessing our pupils from Y1 to Y6 as follows:

- PASS Assessment (Pupil Attitude to Self and School) This assessment will give us information on pupils readiness and willingness to learn and identify any potential barriers to learning
- Progress in Maths - this will identify any gaps in maths learning
- Progress in English – this assesses spelling, grammar, punctuation and reading comprehension



- YARK Reading Test – this assesses reading fluency, accuracy and understanding
- RWI – this assesses phonic knowledge

Pupils in nursery and reception will be assessed as usual this term using the Welsh Government baseline assessment.

When we have all of the assessment information we will be able to put in programmes of specific support for pupils whilst also knowing where there are gaps in learning of the whole class.

Parents of pupils in Foundation Phase are asked to provide the following items:

- Wellies
- Waterproof Coat
- Waterproof trousers (if you have them)

Foundation Phase pupils spend a large part of their school time outdoors and we all know how changeable the weather can be in autumn and winter!

Snack is still to be provided from home and should be a healthy snack which sustains energy during the busy morning. Fruit is ideal for this with its slow energy release.

After close to 30 years, Mrs Evans retired from her Teaching Assistant post over the summer. Mrs Evans could always be relied on in so many ways and we will miss her very much. We wish her all the very best for the future.

If you have any queries on these or any other matters, please do contact us via email at semail@hwbcymru.net

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Mr Oliver and the Family of St Ethelwold's

