



# NEWSLETTER



## Welcome back!

Happy New Year! I do hope you all had an enjoyable and restful festive period and are looking forward to the year ahead!

There is a lot to look forward to over the coming weeks with exciting new learning themes across the school, sporting events, a Y6 English competition and a French food day!

### Start and End of Day Procedures

The start of a new year is always a good opportunity to look at certain processes or areas of school and make any adjustments. The first of these is regarding how children enter the school in the morning. From **Monday 10th January, all children will now come through the black gate** (before the blue door). Acorn and Ash class will continue as normal, but for Birch, Hazel, Yew and Oak, the children will follow the path around going through the black gate onto the playground and around to their usual classroom door. This will mean that children/families will no longer walk through the car park in the morning.

There will now be a taxi arriving at school during morning drop off and it will be using the car park as their drop-off point. The taxi company have, of course, been informed to be mindful of traffic along the pavement when entering and exiting the car park.

There will be **no change to end of day procedures** as the silver gates through the car park need to be open to allow for the volume of foot traffic. However, we do ask that if you are collecting from Smarties or Reception, you refrain from walking through the parked cars and use the path round to the playground.

Please can I remind all families that children should not be playing on the trim trail or the play structure at the end of the school day and need to remain with their parents.

Thank you in advance for your support with this new routine.

### Parking

I appreciate that this is an ongoing reminder, but please ensure that at drop off and collection all members of our school community are parking safely, sensibly and legally! Please be considerate to neighbours of the school and avoid parking that blocks driveways or footpaths, the bus stops and road junctions.



## Uniform

A school uniform is a significant part of life at school because it can play an important role in promoting a sense of pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging within the student body. All these factors positively contribute to pupils' overall wellbeing.

Please ensure that your child is in the correct uniform on a daily basis, this also includes correct PE kit. School shoes should be plain, black shoes - not trainers and jumpers/sweatshirts/cardigans should be either school branded items or plain blue (black for Year 6). Please do not include other items in PE kit.

Girls skirts should also be of a suitable length for school (knee-length or just above the knee) to enable them to move around comfortably.

Please remember that no nail varnish or jewellery, other than stud earrings should be worn and these should be removed on PE days..

If you are finding it difficult to provide the agreed uniform, please speak to the school office. We do have a stock of second hand uniform.



## OPAL – Parent support

I mentioned in my newsletter at the end of last term that we had embarked on the initial stages of becoming an OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) school. This is being funded via the PTA and is a really exciting opportunity for the school.

Within the OPAL Working Party that we need as a school to champion and deliver the programme, we are looking for a parent advocate for the project. The role shouldn't require much of a time commitment but would ideally be someone who would be able to offer pockets of time to work with the staff leads to coordinate locating resources and attending some meetings with our OPAL advisor along the school's 18-24 month journey.

More information about the OPAL programme can be found at <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/the-opal-primary-programme/>

If you are interested in contributing to this project and think you would be able to commit to being our OPAL Parent Champion, please email the office for my attention and I will be in touch.

*Have a lovely weekend,*

*Mrs. Housden*

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week: George, Eleanor, Liam, Georgiana, Erin & Harlee