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Headteacher: Matthew Dampier

September 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome everyone!

I hope you had a lovely, well-earned summer, where possible. The last two terms of 2019-2020 were challenging for all of us. It has been a calm and settled start to the school year and we wish to thank you for your part in this. It has been fantastic to have all the children back – we know they are here as it is a lot louder and busier!

We would like to offer a special welcome to all the families who are new to our school community. It can be exciting and daunting in equal measures at times – especially in the current climate. We are here to help and support and ensure it becomes engaging, motivating and fun in the long term.

Strong partnerships are essential; we have an ‘open door’ policy so that issues are resolved quickly and the children are settled, happy and successful. We always encourage children to speak to adults in school so we can help immediately. Normally you are more than welcome to pop in to see the teachers before or after school or liaise with school office. Due to restrictions on visitors / parents on-site a phone call or e-mail is the best route of communication. We will respond as quickly as possible.

Clubs including Breakfast club



Our Breakfast Club is all set up and running. A big thank you to Mrs Mel Lush who runs the club so well! The club provides much needed child care for families from 7:30 – 8:45 and includes breakfast and a range of activities in a safe and caring environment.

Please book via your online account. Cost is £4 first child £3 siblings thereafter per day. We would prefer half-termly payments in advance but also understand the uncertainty of life and work patterns – so don't worry we can accommodate and be flexible to support you. People are booking up already!

Just a reminder that children should not be on site before **7:30am** for the club.

Mr Banham (after school club leader) is currently finalising details / lists of clubs and you will be notified in the next day or two about these.

We don't have after school care operating until 5:30 – in the past the numbers interested meant that wouldn't be economically viable to do so. Our clubs finish at 4:30.



As part of a basic survey, if you were interested in after school care running until 5:30 then please e-mail the school office. This would, however, be slightly complex as we offer a wider range of clubs (as the children are older) and children would need to attend an already existing club before going on to a (potential) 4:30 – 5:30 club. This is because the hall is being used until then and we have no other free space in school – it is all so complex! We can then decide if provision is viable.

Vision, values and Skills for Learning.

In the past year or so we have developed a new Vision, refined our school Values and Aims and created our Droxford Junior school 'Skills for Learning'. These will be familiar to Years 4 - 6 but new to Year 3. Staff will be (re)introducing all to these in the forthcoming weeks. They underpin all the good work we do in school as well as instilling key skills for life and important morals for appropriate behaviours. These Skills and Values were agreed upon during a 12 month community consultation period and are fully embedded in our practice.



Children will be taught and encouraged to use their 'Skills for Learning' every day. To be **Tenacious**: is being resilient; to persevere; showing grit and determination and being positive in times of adversity. Tenacity helps with problem solving and overcoming challenges – physical and mental. Tenacious people share their tenacious spirit. Being **Creative**: helps to solve problems and ensure we know there is more than one way to do this; creativity is personal and individual; is literal (linked to the arts) and can be about invention and enterprise. Creative people are resourceful and can share this resourcefulness. Being **Curious** is important when we are inquisitive and test new theories; is about asking questions to find new learning; is about discovery; being open minded and positive and being courageous – understanding new learning comes from mistakes. Curiosity is about being proactive not passive! Finally **Collaboration** is about teamwork and communication skills; working with a variety of teams and individuals in and out of school including parents, governors and members of the wider community. Collaboration can happen in school or out. Collaboration takes place on school trips and all these 'Skills for Learning' will be used on residential!

We feel that these positive characteristics and habits of mind are not only important to display now but also in secondary school and vital in later lives and careers.



Staffing for 2020 – 2021 Academic Year is as follows:

Headteacher – Mr Dampier

Deputy headteacher – Mrs Smith (Tues – Fri)

SENCo – Mrs Greenwood (Mon-Wed)

Years 3 & 4

Droxford Base – Mr Lowndes (Year 3 / 4 class)

Hambledon Base – Miss Barnett (Year 3 / 4 class)

Meonstoke Base – Miss Kirby (Year 3 / 4 class)

Years 5 & 6

Exton Base – Miss Jones (Year 5 / 6 class)

Soberton Base – Mr Todd (Year 5 / 6 class)

Newtown Base – Mrs J Smith (DHT) + Mrs Boyden (Year 5 / 6 class)

Friday PPA cover – Mrs Goodwin, Mrs Wright and Mr Banham

(our amazing) TAs – Mrs Kuiper, Mrs Barnett, Mrs Fowler, Mrs Beckley, Miss Cook, Mrs Metcalfe, Mrs McAll, Ms Mitham and Mrs Evans.

Other posts

ELSA – Mrs L Smith (Friday)

Librarian – Mrs Daniells

Sports Coach – Mr Banham

Music – Mrs Graham & Mr Burgess

Finance officer: Mrs Hinks

Admin / Office team: Mrs Cleeve and Mrs Swinburn.

Site Manager – Mr Vardy

School dog - Luna

Road Safety

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE UP TO THE SCHOOL TO DROP OFF OR COLLECT CHILDREN AT PEAK TIMES.

Could you also ensure you are dropping off and picking up your child in safe places; the village square car park and the car park adjacent to the Fire station are ideal. A request from Hampshire Fire and Rescue is not to park in the area directly in front of the Fire Station; this is needed for fire crews in an emergency.

Parking is challenging at the moment, I do understand. Unfortunately there aren't lots of places to park in the village and with COVID-19 meaning people are working from home it is even harder.

Hopefully there should be enough parking in the square or the parking area next to the fire station so there would be no need to park in 'The Park'. However, if the very rare occasion arises and this does occur the residents of The Park would very much appreciate it if their **driveways and garages were not blocked and people do not park on the grass.** Thank you!



Bus Escorts and exit registers

Please ensure your child is clear on their transport arrangements on a daily basis. If your child uses the bus in the mornings please make sure they know what to do if the bus is late picking them up. At the end of the school day staff and Mr Vardy, our Site Manager, will escort the children to the buses. Please ensure your child carries their bus pass at all times.

<http://www.droxfordjuniorschool.co.uk/>

At the end of the school day all children take part in our exit registration process. The class teacher calls out names and children let the teacher know whether they are on the school bus, going home either by cycling, walking or collected by an adult (we call this 'own' or club. We have club timetables in all classes and we endeavour to remind children however there is a level of responsibility needed by children in knowing how they are getting home. It helps!

Children need to sit in their 3 / 4 & 5 / 6 allocated spaces on the buses. **If a child or family member has symptoms of COVID-19 or is awaiting a test then children should not be on the bus or coming to school until safe to do so.**

School Uniform

The children are looking really smart and this reinforces our high standards and expectations. The children should not be wearing jewellery or nail varnish. However a plain stud earring or pair of stud earrings is acceptable. They should be wearing practical shoes for everyday use; trainers can be worn for outside PE.

As a reminder it is grey trousers, skirts and **blue polo shirts**. There will be no FODS second-hand uniform sales at present – nor will we be keeping lost property – all for safety reasons.

<http://droxfordjunior.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/School-Uniform-Policy-Jan-2018.pdf>

School Dinners

From September 2020 the cost of lunches is £2.40 per day. Total cost for the first half of Autumn Term will be £88.80 and the second half will be £81.60. Payments can be made online via your online account. If you wish to pay by cheque it must be made payable to 'HCC'. Payments sent into school need to be in a sealed envelope with your child's full name on the front.

Packed Lunches and healthy snacks

Please make these as balanced and as healthy as possible. We consistently remind parents about food types and NO nuts in school. Children are also encouraged to use our hand sanitisers at the start of the day, after break time and lunch time.

There are several children with severe nut and other food allergies in school. Please remind your child(ren) not to share food. Thank you.

Please provide your child with a piece of fruit or a healthy alternative. The children should not be bringing sweets into school at all. Alternatively Hampshire Caterers sell a variety of snacks at break time.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING SWEETS OR CAKES INTO SCHOOL ON BIRTHDAYS!



Free School Dinners

From September 2020 all children who were in reception, year 1 or year 2 were offered a free healthy school lunch. Children in other school years are also offered a **free school lunch** if their parents get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190) as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (Parents who are made redundant or start working less than 16 hours per week, may find their children are entitled to free meals for a limited period.)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

Even if your child prefers to have a packed lunch from home registering for free meals raises money for our school!

Registering your child could raise an extra £1,320 to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff, school trip, residential visit or after school activity support. As an incentive for the 2020/21 academic year, we would like to offer a free set of school uniform to any parent who successfully registers for Free School Meals by 31st December 2020. Please contact the school office for further details.

Leave of absence

Please do not request any leave of absence during term time as it will not be authorised. The school has to follow statutory guidance set by the Department for Education (DfE) which Hampshire Local Authority states that we legally have to follow. As you may be aware this could involve fines being imposed by the Local Authority.

Medical Forms, inhalers and other medicines.

If your child needs to have medicines administered in school please complete a medical form ([available on website](#)) or obtain a form from the school office. If your child has a particular condition that we should be aware of please inform or update the school office. Please ensure inhalers, epi-pens and other (in date) medicines are in school.

Listen2Me

Every child will learn an instrument for a term each academic year. Listen2Me is run by Hampshire Music Service and **FODS** raise the funding for the expert, whole class tuition. Every child learns and experiences playing four musical instruments, from Years 3-6; reads musical notations and participates in performing to audiences. This year Years 3 and 4 will learn the Ukulele and Years 5 and 6 will learn to play Samba instruments!

Normally at the end of each term there will be a performance for parents in the school – unfortunately this won't be the case for this term at least.



Parent Governor vacancies

If you feel you have the time to attend after school meetings (via Zoom at present); a few during school time and would like to support the school then please contact our clerk to the governors for an application form. We need support more than ever to come through this time and the years ahead. N.Beckley@droxford.hants.sch.uk

And finally...

Important Covid – 19 advice

The important points to remember are that we continue with the high levels of hygiene regime we are accustomed to; we follow strict guidance about the groups (bubbles) and how we manage adults in school as best as possible in terms of social distancing; continued promotion and practise of respiratory hygiene – ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach and engage with the NHS test and trace process.

Check if you or your child has coronavirus symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

 [Get a test to check if you have coronavirus](#)

If any child tests positive for Coronavirus then, with guidance from Public Health England, the child's class, teacher and anyone else who has worked closely with that child will have to self isolate for 14 days. Family members do not have self-isolate unless the child / adult sent home shows symptoms themselves.

There is a lot of guidance and advice published by the Government – constantly being updated – it is a bit of minefield trawling through it. We will send out updated parent guidance this week to keep you informed.

Thank you for patience and support.

We are all looking forward to another successful and enjoyable year,

Best wishes



Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

