



Droxford Junior School
Union Lane, Droxford, Hants.
SO32 3QR

☎ 01489 877537
✉ adminoffice@droxford.hants.sch.uk
🌐 www.droxfordjunior.co.uk

Headteacher: Matthew Dampier

October 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents & carers,

Thank you!

A big thank you to all you parents who have contributed to the successful start we have had so far this term. Most days attendance is in the high 90% and some days we have had 100% attendance of children in school. This shows children and parents alike are confident and happy with the return to school. I appreciate it is difficult enough getting everything going again with family routines; homework; sleep patterns; clubs; getting children here there and everywhere and remembering everything school has asked for. It's a shock to the system for all of us! Everyone has been brilliant – Thank you!

We understand too that with the added challenge of coughs, colds, sneezes and other symptoms the concern for COVID tests has added extra layers of concern. Yet this aside, things are settling down, we are all learning to manage these challenges and all children are in school.

Thank you so much for all your patience and kind considerations with the constant parking challenges the school community faces, especially with The Park being resurfaced. As you will understand and have noticed, driving up to school is not ideal and I always advise against it. Thank you also for waiting, socially distanced, in the different areas after school, 3/4 inside the gates and 5/6 outside. After viewing numbers it seems the sensible solution for after school collecting whilst you wait to pick up.

School dinners, including new break and lunchtime routines and Breakfast Club.

Another sign that confidence and routines are returning to normal is the uptake in school dinners and Breakfast club. Some days Breakfast Club is almost full. There are places available everyday but we are limiting numbers for safety reasons.

School dinner numbers have increased in uptake too. Children eat in their classes (packed lunches in classrooms – dinners in the hall) within their groups or bubbles as people call them. Year 3 / 4 and 5 / 6 eat separately and now, to alleviate a busy playground, play separately too as we stagger breaktimes. This has proved very popular already as the children have more space for the same amount of time. It is worth noting that **from the week beginning Monday 2nd November – school dinners will now cost £2.50** – a 10p increase made by HC3S – the Local Authority caterers to Hampshire schools.

[A reminder that Monday 2nd November is a day closure for staff training.](#)

Parent consultations.

As mentioned in previous communications we will not be holding traditional parent evenings in school. We have decided to continue the 'Lockdown' practice of phoning parents, this will happen over a two week period leading up to half term. Details will be sent in a separate letter. Each consultation will last 10 minutes and will be based around how your child has transitioned to their new class (school); giving you details on the curriculum they have been accessing and how they are managing so far in class and in school generally. We will also share work with you via Class Dojo. Details to follow on curriculum coverage and Class Dojo.



The Roving Bookshop will be open all day, in the school hall, on Thursday 22nd October for just the one day. Your child will receive a leaflet soon regarding the bookshop (and money envelope sent home the day before – as a guide we would suggest £10). They will have a 30 minute timetabled slot to enjoy the bookshop and buy books during the day. Unfortunately again parents will not be able to come into school. We will go through this with the new Year 3s and remind everyone else prior to the bookshop visit.

Cancelled events and supporting FODS.

Just reading through the newsletters from last October and November, the term was filled with such excitement as we planned ahead: SF Said (author of Varjak Paw) visited; we were organising the Year 6 residential to Calshot; Parents Evening; the school's 90th Birthday celebrations; FODS coffee and café afternoons; Year 3 parent workshops; English and Maths workshops; Open Mornings for new parents; music presentations; Victorian themed week and Christmas disco and Christmas services. So much goes on in school over and above the normal day to day curriculum. Normally my newsletters are awash with pictures of all of these events.

Unfortunately, for the time being we have to be safe, follow government guidance and look forward to next year when hopefully, events in school can happen again.

One piece of good news - although the Year 6 residential has been cancelled we have managed to get it rearranged (albeit in reduced days) to July next year. The Year 6 will get a residential which is good news because these children missed out in Year 5. Details to follow in due course.

FODS really need your help at the moment – more details of their contributions and a special September 2020 letter can be found via the following link. <http://droxfordjunior.co.uk/fods/>

The FODS AGM will be held virtually via Zoom – Thursday 8th October 6:30p.m. Login details can be obtained by contacting the school office. Please attend if you wish to support us in these challenging times.

Reminders from staff

Please keep up the good work regarding reading at home and using / commenting in the reading diaries – we really like seeing and responding to comments in them. Times table practise is as essential so please encourage this including the Times Table Rockstars. Also a plea that we cannot be trading Lego cards or having anything in school from home other than the things permitted. A reminder that children shouldn't be on site before 8:30 (there is no supervision on the playground until 8:40) – please use Breakfast Club if needed, you can book via your online account.

And finally...

I started this newsletter with an abundance of heartfelt thank yous but I feel I should end with apologies. This isn't the most exciting of newsletters – more practical, informative but with smatterings of disappointing news. My newsletters are usually far more colourful and positive! However I am confident that we will be able to celebrate and share more as the year progresses – teachers will no doubt start the process with many positives discussed about your wonderful children in the consultations later this month.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

