



Friday 25th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now been back at school for three full weeks and it is hard to believe how quickly time has gone! We continue to be extremely thankful, as a team, for your continued support and thoughtful messages that have been communicated to us. It has been lovely to speak to an increasing number of parents since we started back at school and to really begin to feel as though we are getting to know all of you on an individual basis. I speak for the whole team when I say that we are looking forward to continuing with this in the coming weeks!

I wanted to take the time to communicate some updates with you that I hope will be helpful as we move forwards this half term. As previously mentioned, I will always endeavour to communicate information in a timely manner that allows you the opportunity to ask further questions or gain clarification. With this in mind, if you would like to discuss any points further then please do not hesitate to email the academy office at dunsford@lapsw.org and I (or the class teacher) will get back to you.

Attendance

As you know, attendance is an extremely important part of school for all children. High standards of attendance ensure that your child is able to make the most of their time at school and to fully participate in all learning opportunities and aspects of school life. We appreciate that, at this time, it can often be confusing regarding potential COVID-19 symptoms and symptoms of illness that can naturally occur during the autumn/winter months. You should have received advice regarding this from Public Health and NHS Test and Trace this week that will hopefully enable you to distinguish between these symptoms. I would encourage you to contact the academy if you are unsure of any symptoms that your child may be experiencing and we will be more than happy to support you with this.

Newsletters

We have been thrilled to be able to begin to share weekly newsletters with you all and we look forward to this continuing! We aim for each newsletter to give you a glimpse into the week that your child(ren) has had at school and to celebrate successes. If you are not receiving the newsletters via email, please email the academy office and Mrs. Sinton will be able to support you. Please also keep a 'look out' for our half termly newsletter which will be a bigger celebration of collective successes!



Physical Education

The children have thoroughly enjoyed beginning PE lessons once again with Mr. Coupe. We are very privileged to have the expertise of a secondary PE teacher to support our provision and one with whom the children are very familiar with. PE will take place on **Monday and Wednesday afternoons for children in Years 2 - 6**. Please could you ensure that the children come to school in their PE kit on a Monday and Wednesday from next week. Children in Reception/Year 1 will be taking part in a number of learning opportunities to support their physical development throughout the week in addition to their Wednesday PE session with Mr. Coupe. For children in **Reception/Year 1**, please could you ensure that the children wear their PE kit to school on a **Wednesday only**. We completely appreciate that children may have grown out of their PE kits and therefore we accept that you may still need to source different elements of the school PE kit list. Please could we move to ensuring that all children are in full school PE kits after half term in the hope that this will provide you with time to get any items that you may need. Thank you for your support with this.

After School Club Provision

We understand how important after school club provision can be for children both in terms of extending the curriculum provision and providing the children with a wider range of experiences. Due to this, I am currently in the process of planning after school club provision that can be provided within the safety measures and restrictions that are currently in place. In order to ensure that we have enough of an expression of interest to make this provision viable, we are asking that you could notify the office if your child would be interested in attending an after school activity. Currently I am in the process of organising an after school multi-skills club with Mr. Coupe for children in Key Stage 2 (Year 3 - 6) and also sessions with 'Find Your Wild' (Forest School) also for Key Stage 2 (Year 3 - 6). If you would be interested in your child taking part in either of these clubs then please could you email the academy office. We will only be able to offer this provision if the numbers make each club viable.

We will be looking to organise after school clubs for younger children after half term. I will communicate further information regarding this as I am able to.

Breakfast Club Provision

Please can you ensure that, if you are requiring Breakfast Club provision, you book through School Money. We are unable to go over the number of places available and we need to keep a register of children attending to remain within the measures of track and trace. Please do not bring your child to Breakfast Club if they have not been booked onto the system as we will not be able to offer this provision in these circumstances. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Google Classroom

A huge thank you to all parents in Year 1 - 6 for supporting your child(ren) to access Google Classroom at home. We are working hard to ensure that all children can confidently access this online learning platform so that, in the event of needing to use remote learning, the children are able to access this with increasing ease. Home learning will be set on this platform to provide the children with opportunities to access Google Classroom on a regular basis. Please let your child's teacher know if you are having difficulty gaining access to Google Classroom so that we can support you and provide advice with this.

Census Day

Thursday, 1st October is once again Census Day and a very important day in terms of the funding that the academy is provided with. On Census Day, information about our pupils and the Academy is collated to allocate funding for the coming year. The number of children in Key Stage 1 who have a school dinner on census day does have a direct impact on the funding that the school receives.

On this day, we are offering a menu of roast chicken or homity pie- delicious! Please note that this menu will not be reflected on School Money. We will assume that children who booked roast chicken on Wednesday will still require it on Thursday. The same goes for the vegetarian option. Please note that Thursday's menu will be served on Wednesday instead. Should you have any questions please let the office know.

All children in Reception, Years 1 & 2 do not need to bring lunch into school as we would like them to enjoy a school meal together. Should you have any concerns, please speak to the class teacher or the academy office.

This menu is also available to Key Stage 2 and to Nursery subject to the usual charge, unless they are entitled to a free school meal.

I am sure you will agree that this is a great opportunity for the children to enjoy a meal together whilst ensuring our school funding is maximised!



Celebration

I wanted to finish this letter by celebrating all of the children at Dunsford Community Academy. I have been completely blown away by how the children have returned to school, settled back into a routine and developed relationships with their new teachers and staff. The children have worked so hard on their learning behaviours and behaviours around school and they are extremely respectful both towards staff and each other. I have been so proud to see how caring the children are towards each other and how supportive they are in their nature. I feel very privileged to have been welcomed into the Dunsford Academy family and to be able to work with such amazing children every day!

Challenge

Finally, I would like to set all children and families a challenge this week! This is an optional challenge but one that you may like to do as a family as you enjoy the fresh autumn air. I would like you to try to collect fallen autumn leaves from your walk. Please try to choose different shapes, colours and sizes. You may like to try being a photographer and taking an interesting image to capture your leaf collection. You may like to create some leaf rubbings or leaf prints using different tools such as crayons, pencil or pastels. Alternatively, you may wish to write a creative poem or story about your leaves. These are only suggestions and you may come up with your own creative ideas to show the collection that you have found. I am very excited to see what you produce as a result of this challenge- have fun!

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend and I am looking forward to another exciting week of learning next week.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Guntrip

Mrs. Guntrip
Head of Academy

