

Thursday 5th September 2024

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome back to another glorious school year. What an incredible first day! It's wonderful to see both new and familiar faces at the academy. We've welcomed several new students, and we are now nearly at full capacity.

Our new ceiling in Oaks looks incredible, and our lighting throughout the academy has been replaced and upgraded, thanks to our Estates team for their hard work.

We have also had an incredible new forest school structure planned and delivered by PTFA and friends. It is magnificent. The pupils journeyed up there this morning for an outdoor assembly and even with no roof yet, they simply marvelled at the work quality and the opportunity it will bring for them. It's such a functional space, and we can't thank you all enough for your various efforts in fundraising and bringing this project to life. Lucky children and staff!



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FLOURISHING FUTURES



I would like to highlight a few changes in the timetables that will support you moving forward.

PE kits need to come in and stay in the academy, as PE will only be in the afternoons from now on.

PE

Oaks class PE - Monday and Wednesday

Cedar Class PE - Monday and Wednesday

Willows class PE - Monday and Wednesday

Office hours

Unfortunately, we have had to reduce hours across the Trust, which has resulted in a loss of hours for some of our trusted and wonderful colleagues. As a result, the office will not be as readily accessible as it was previously.

New office hours:

8:30 - 12:30 Monday, Wednesday Thursday and Friday

Closed - Tuesday and after 12:30 every day

This will have a few impacts that we need to share with you, so we can work together to mitigate them.

Health and safety / Safeguarding

Please ensure the gate is closed when you exit. If left open while children are onsite, it immediately compromises our ability to keep them safe. If you find the gate open, please close it.

Please do not let anyone else in with you when entering through the main gate, unless they have announced themselves on the intercom. We maintain a list of who is on the site for health and safety reasons. Promptly exiting the site after dropping off your child will also help us keep everyone safe and adhere to safeguarding rules.

Nursery

Nursery pick-up will need to be organised with precision, please.

For the 12:00 pick-up, please be prompt to ensure that an adult can deliver your child to you.

For the 12:30 pick-up, a staff member will come to the gate to meet you, as there will be no one in the office.

Please remember to bring in waterproofs, as the children will be outside in various weather conditions.

Willow Class

Please bring in named forest school clothes for changing into, along with waterproofs and wellies, on Fridays.

PE kits should be brought in and left at school in a named bag, which can be hung on the children's pegs.

Mrs Baker would like to invite the children in Willow Class to bring in a photo of one of their summer holiday highlights to share with their friends. Please send these in your child's book bag or email them to the office if that's easier.

Reading

Read Write Inc. will start next week, and reading books will be sent home with the children during that time. In the meantime, they can choose books from our extensive selection to share and read. We will also schedule a Read Write Inc. session to explain how and why we use the program.

Medicines

Please be patient during the collection and drop-off of medicine, as another member of staff may need to assist you on occasion.

Late

Please ensure you arrive on time for school. Adults are working with the children as soon as the gate opens, so there may be delays in someone coming to assist you.

Messages

Key lines of communication will be via email and through the MCAS system—please ensure you have a login.

For urgent messages after 12:30 and on Tuesdays, please use the phone or Dunsford email, which will be checked periodically.

Labelling

We will encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own equipment, but if they struggle, having everything clearly named will be a great help in ensuring that items are successfully matched to their owner.

Toys and trinkets

A quick reminder: toys and trinkets brought to school can cause problems if they are lost, borrowed, or broken, often leading to distress for children. Please ensure that children do not bring them to school unless they are sensory anchors and have been specifically arranged with the teacher.

Swimming

We have made every effort to secure swimming sessions for the youngest members of the academy this term, but unfortunately, it hasn't worked out. The pool remains open until the weather makes it challenging, so please continue to make use of it during off times.

Forest school

Thank you all for your patience and please feel free to come and look at the incredible structure at the end of the day; it is an exciting sight to behold. Both children and staff have had a brilliant day, spending time making class contracts, discussing what we'd like to do, playing with friends, designing tray logos, and engaging in team games. What a fantastic way to start!

We are currently negotiating times to ensure Forest school happens regularly for pupils in the afternoons to ensure high quality learning of reading, writing and maths can take place in the morning. We will let you know the days and times as soon as this is determined.



Thank you so much for your part in supporting your children emotionally in their independence to come into school. We are always mindful about change and have kept a special eye out for those who found it a little overwhelming. They have been amazing.

Kind regards,

Mr Grimley