



We are nearing the end of a very busy half term and both children and staff are looking forward to a well-deserved break. We are all getting used to the 'new normal' and have adapted well to the changes in routines and practices which have been necessary. The children have been amazing and have shown incredible resilience, adaptability and true commitment to learning since our return in September. Thank you all for your ongoing support with this and for the understanding shown throughout.

### **Current guidance and procedures**

Following the half term break, we will be continuing with current arrangements under our risk assessment. If there are any further changes we will of course let you know as soon as possible. Please can I remind parents that children should not be bringing in items from home unnecessarily, this includes non-disposable lunch boxes and water bottles and hand sanitiser- this will be provided in school.

Hopefully many of you will be using the NHS Track and Trace app and I urge you to inform the school as soon as possible should any relevant notifications be received. Please also continue to follow current guidance in relation to self-isolation should you, family members or any close contacts display symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.

If any child displays any of the following symptoms, even if only mild, please do not send them to school and follow current NHS and government guidance:

- A high temperature
- A new and persistent cough
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Please refer to our website to view any related policies and updates, including our remote learning policy which would become active should we have either a full or partial closure.

### **End of School- Safe Collection**

Your child's safety is paramount. With this in mind, please leave your vehicles to collect your child at the end of the school day to ensure that they move safely from the school gates to cars. We will not allow any children to leave school site until a parent is ready to greet their child with the exception of older children who have written permission to walk home.

### **It's turning colder...**

With the current requirement for ventilation to be prioritised in school and the sudden dip in temperature please could I ask that children wear appropriate clothing in school, including long sleeved shirts/ jumper/ cardigan and long trousers or tights. Please also ensure that the children have appropriate clothing for PE including jogging bottoms or leggings and either a sweatshirt or hoodie. Please also ensure that clothing is named.

As it gets even colder children may bring in hats and gloves which they can keep in their trays in school.

### **Office Manager**

Mrs Faith Delve will now be known as Miss Faith Howland following the half term break.

### **Equine Facilitated Learning**

Ducklings and Robins have both had the opportunity to enjoy their first sessions with Solo, learning about the anatomy of a horse, how to care for and groom a horse and thinking about equine agility. Their next sessions will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November (Robins) and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November (Ducklings). Warm clothing will be needed!

### **Forest Schools**

Ducklings continue to enjoy Forest Schools led by Mrs Lenton and Mrs Appleby. They have shown great curiosity in the area and have enjoyed working together following adult instruction and also engaging in fantastic child- initiated learning experiences. These sessions will continue whatever the weather!

### **Signing songs**

Kestrels and Hawks have thoroughly enjoyed their music lessons with Karl this half term. Adapting to the current restrictions around singing in class, Karl came up with the genius idea of teaching the children how to sing using sign language. Both classes have learned some fantastic songs, which they perform beautifully from *What a Wonderful World* and *This is Me to Dance Monkey!*

### **Microsoft Teams**

Thank you to all parents and children who have engaged with home learning tasks via Teams. So far this seems to be working well and class teachers are reporting good levels of engagement. Please make your class teacher aware if you are having any difficulties in accessing this platform.

### **Diary Dates**

#### **October**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – End of term

#### **November**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>- Term begins

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>- Robins Equine Facilitated Learning

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>- Remembrance Day- Wear a poppy or something red with your school uniform

Friday 13<sup>th</sup>- Children in Need- Wear it spotty- £1 donation

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>- Ducklings Equine Facilitated Learning

#### **December**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> - Jumper for Joy- Save the Children- Wear a Christmas Jumper-£1 donation

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>- End of term

Sophie Foston

Headteacher

