

17th September 2021

Welcome back!

It is great to welcome everyone back to school after the summer break, with a special welcome to our new Year 3 children who are settling in quickly. Despite the lifting of restrictions, we have worked incredibly hard in school to ensure we still have a robust risk assessment and continue to ensure the safety of pupils and staff as a key priority. Pupils have returned to school with an excellent attitude to learning and looking very smart. We would appreciate your support to ensure these high standards are maintained throughout the year.

Risk Assessment

As circumstances change in school, we are updating our risk assessment to reflect the changes in our practice. This document is available on our home page on the school website.

Start of School Day

Children can arrive anytime between **8.40am – 9.00am**.

End of School Day

Years 3 & 4 – 3.25pm

Years 5 & 6 – 3.30pm



Please can parents remember to socially distance whilst waiting at the gate and restrict drop off to **ONE adult only**.

Parent contact details

We continue to communicate by texts and emails. Could we remind parents that it is your responsibility to inform the school office when your contact details change. School should have a minimum of three contact phone numbers to ensure we can get hold of someone at home in an emergency. If you change address, we need to see a copy of your most up to date council tax bill as proof in order for us to make the change.

Communication

Please remember that our newsletter will continue to be sent by email to the priority 1 contact in each family. Newsletters are also available on the school website and a paper copy will always be available for collection from the school office. They will **not** be issued every week, but will be on an 'as and when' basis and will be available on the school website no later than 4.00pm on a Friday. If you do not receive an emailed copy, please speak to the school office and we will check your details.

Attendance, Absence and Punctuality

We ask that you support the school by not taking your child out of school during term time for holidays. Absence due to exceptional circumstances must be applied for by completing an 'Exceptional Circumstances Absence Form' which can be obtained from the school office. These should be returned to school and handed to the school office in advance. Any holiday requests during term time will not be authorised.

Children should arrive at school from **8.40 a.m.** – please do not bring them earlier than this (unless they are going to Earlybirds). They should be in school by **9.00 a.m.** and our school gates then close automatically. After this time your child should ring the bell and wait at the gate to be admitted. They will then be marked as 'Late' in the register. We are aiming to reduce the number of 'Lates' recorded, which are disruptive to the start of the school day. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child arrives on time.

We work closely with our Attendance Officer who supports Mrs. Smith (Deputy Headteacher for lower phase) in monitoring attendance, unauthorised absence and punctuality. Please note that Mrs. Smith will write to you if your child's attendance is of concern, particularly if it falls below 92%, as this will impact on your child's learning. The average attendance for the school has always been above 97%.

If your child is absent due to illness, we would ask that you contact the school office **before 9.30 am** on the first day of absence so that we can ensure our records are up to date. We would then ask that you send a letter to your child's class teacher on their return to school. If your child has a medical appointment, please ensure that the school office is made aware in advance. We would ask you to arrange medical appointments outside the school day wherever possible.

Coronavirus: The NHS advises that the main symptoms of COVID-19 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

If your child has any of the main symptoms:

- Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you receive your test result – only leave home to have a test.
- Contact the school office to keep us updated on the situation.

If your child seems to have coronavirus symptoms in school, we will isolate them and may check their temperature. We will contact you to arrange for them to be collected from school and advise you to get them tested. If the test result is negative, they should return to school. If the test is positive, your child should self-isolate for at least 10 days, starting from the date they started to show symptoms. They can return to school after this time, as long as they feel well enough to do so.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We sent out a letter last week to let you know about our Coffee Morning on **Friday 24th September**. We want to raise money for this very worthwhile charity, as we have done for many years.



There will be a raffle and games to play, such as Name the Teddy (all costing 50p). We have asked the children to decorate an envelope (containing your donation for Macmillan) with their name and class on the back, for the chance to win a prize! **Please bring your own mug for your drink** to promote hygiene and reduce waste and expense.

We would also be grateful if you could send in some cakes (only shop-bought and in wrappers this year please). Your child should bring in £1.00 for a cake and a green Slushie (or squash). If your child has **food allergies**, please provide them with their own cake in a named bag or container and send it in to your child's teacher. Thank you very much for your support with this event.

Photographer

Academy Photography will be in school on Monday 27th September to take individual photographs and **siblings at the Juniors**. All payments for this service will now be made online directly to Academy Photography as school can no longer accept payments. This is to ensure a speedy and more direct ordering system. Information will be sent home once photographs have been taken.

Year 6 Secondary School Applications

Please note that the closing date for online applications is 31st October 2021.

School Uniform

There was a noticeable decline in the standard of uniform in the summer term, but we are pleased that most children are smartly turned out in this new start to the year. Thank you so much for working with us on this.

Footwear remains the main cause for concern, however, with some children wearing trainers rather than shoes. We understand that manufacturers are selling styles that are a hybrid between the two, but we would ask you to ensure that your child's footwear is leather/leather look, smart and plain black, please. Fabric shoes or coloured logos/soles are not acceptable. Earrings should also be small studs only, with no hoops or dangly ones that are a safety hazard, and no nail polish, please.

Please ensure that your child comes to school with a school tie and a waterproof coat every day. All items should also be named so that lost items can be returned easily. We really want to reduce the amount of unclaimed items that we are faced with every few weeks. Thanks very much for your support with this.

Uniform can be purchased from Clive Mark in Boldmere or Uniform Hub in Minworth. It is worth bearing in mind that Uniform Hub also donate money towards our school fund – the more uniform purchased from them, the more money we make for school and can spend directly back on the children.

Dinner Money

Dinner money is £12.50 per week (i.e. £2.50 per meal). If you prefer to pay for the half-term in advance, it will be **£87.50** for Monday 6th September to Friday 22nd October. Please ensure that payments are made promptly using our online system. Outstanding dinner money invoices are sent by email and we wish to remind you that dinner money **should always be paid in advance not arrears**. We hope that your child will have school dinners, but please remember to give the school office one week's notice in writing of any changes to your child's lunch arrangements.

Payments to school

Can we please remind parents that we are a cashless school, and all payments should be made using our online payments system <https://www.scopay.com/walmley-jun> We do not hold any cash in school and therefore cannot refund any payments made in cash that subsequently need to be returned. **Please note that any cash payments made, that need to be returned will sit on your child's account for you to use for a future trip/event.**

Water Bottles

Please provide your child with a named water bottle. The children always have access to water and they will need their bottle in school every day to keep them sufficiently hydrated. Please do not send them in with squash.

Free School Meals

Changes have been made as to how we collect information for Free School Meals. You no longer have to come into school to complete paperwork and bring in evidence as it is all done by simply registering online at <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham> . You only ever need to register once and school will automatically be updated of eligibility or any changes of eligibility; this information is data protected as per the terms shown.

Earlybirds Bookings

A reminder if you need to make an emergency booking it must be made before 12 o'clock on that day. In addition, if you cancel an Earlybirds session after 12 o'clock, you will have to collect your child from Earlybirds as they may have already been taken there by a member of the Earlybirds team.

Dates for the Diary

Autumn Term 2021

27th September Individual Photos
6th – 8th October Year 4 Trip to Whitmoor Lakes
22nd October Break up for Half Term

1st November School Open
1st – 5th November Year 5 Trip to Outward Bound, Aberdovey
15th November Year 3 Woodlands Trip
17th November Year 3 Woodlands Trip
19th November Year 3 Woodlands Trip
16th December Break up for Christmas
17th December Teacher Training Day

Spring Term 2022

4th January Teacher Training Day
5th January School Open
18th February Break up for Half Term

28th February School Open
8th April Break up for Easter

Summer Term 2022

25th April School Open
2nd May Bank Holiday
27th May Break up for Half Term

6th June Teacher Training
7th June School Open
21st July Break up for Summer Holidays

Autumn Term 2022

5th September Teacher Training
6th September School Open
21st October Break up for Half Term
31st October School Open
16th December Break up for Christmas

Spring Term 2023

3rd January Teacher Training
4th January School Open
17th February Break up for Half Term
27th February School Open
31st March Break up for Easter

Summer Term 2023

17 th April	School Open
1 st May	Bank Holiday
26 th May	Break up for Half Term
5 th June	Teacher Training Day
6 th June	School Open
21 st July	Break up for Summer Holidays
24 th July	Teacher Training Day
25 th July	Teacher Training Day

Autumn Term 2023

4 th September	Teacher Training Day
5 th September	School Open
27 th October	Break up for Half Term
6 th November	School Open
21 st December	Break up for Christmas
22 nd December	Teacher Training Day

Spring Term 2024

8 th January	School Open
9 th February	Break up
19 th February	School Open
21 st March	Break up for Easter
22 nd March	Teacher Training

Summer Term 2024

8 th April	School Open
24 th May	Break up for Half Term
3 rd June	Teacher Training Day
4 th June	School Open
19 th July	Break up for Summer
22 nd July	Teacher Training Day