

23rd September 2022

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. 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 so please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform at all times.

VACANCY

We are looking for a new lunchtime supervisor to join our dedicated team. The role is from 12.05-13.20pm each day in term time. Do you know someone who might be interested? If so, full details are available on our school website and in the main office.



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



Walking to and from school – Road Safety

Please remember to use the pedestrian crossing and model good practices to children so they know how to safely cross the road. Too many parents are crossing the road at the front of the school and we have had some near misses.

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.

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.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We have sent out a letter about our Coffee Morning on Friday 30th September. We would like 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 reduce waste and expense and help our Eco aims.

We would also be grateful if you could send in some cakes (shop-bought or home-made). Your child should bring in a donation for a cake and a drink (50p/£1?). 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 and we look forward to seeing you!

Photographer

Academy Photography will be in school on Monday 26th September to take individual photographs and siblings who are currently at the Juniors. Younger siblings of Junior pupils can be photographed from 8.45am on the same day. 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 2022**. Failure to apply, or a late application, will mean that your child will NOT be allocated a place on 1st March 2023.

School Uniform

Footwear remains the main cause for concern, 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 on the children.

If you have any uniform that your child has outgrown, we are now collecting donations at the school office. Please ensure the uniform items are washed and in good condition as we plan to hold a second hand uniform sale later this term.

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.**

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 Tuesday 6th September to Friday 21st 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.

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 2022

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

Spring Term 2023

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