



Parents as Partners

***The work of our school, underpinned by our core Christian Values:
Respect, Caring, Friendship, Honesty, Forgiveness and Responsibility***

DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE AT FAWKHAM CEP SCHOOL

3rd September 2021

Dear Parent,

Newsletter 1

Firstly, I would like to say welcome back to school and the beginning of the new academic year. I trust that you all had a fantastic summer and managed to enjoy the time with your children, family and friends.

Now we as a nation, are at Step 4 of our Coronavirus Roadmap, we start the new academic year with hope, hope for a great year together with fantastic learning taking place, fun activities to enjoy and a return to all of the wonderful things that make our Fawkham Family so special.

A special welcome to all the new children who have joined our Fawkham Family: We hope that Willow, Dusty, Evelina, Max, Oliver, Austin, Alfie, Nancy, Beatrix, Edward, Archie, Sally, Florence, Kingsley and Joshua all thoroughly enjoy their time here at Fawkham.

We also officially welcome Miss Emily Rawlings our new Hedgehogs class teacher, and Mrs Hollands and Miss Burchell our new Mid-Day Meals Supervisors – although of course most of you know them both in their TA roles.

Dates for the Diary

Attached to this newsletter are the diary dates for the whole of the academic year. As always I will inform you of any changes or additions as soon as possible, should the need arise.

Please ensure that you note down all of the key dates in your own diaries and on calendars so that you and your children do not miss out on all of the great things that we have planned.



TCS and School Dinners

As you know all parents with infant aged children can access the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme.

Can I please remind all parents that if your child is having school dinners albeit for one or five days each week you need to have booked the meals on line by midnight on the preceding Sunday. Unfortunately, if this deadline isn't met TCS will not be able to provide meals as sufficient food will not have been ordered.

Please also note that any changes from dinners/packed lunch/dinners must give one week's notice to the office staff so that Mrs Ebbs can accurately plan her food orders.

Mrs Bamber will soon be sending out further information and registration details for sQuid for the new Dormice children.



Clubs



A letter about school clubs will be sent out this week, all after school clubs will start week beginning 20th September and will end on 3rd December.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers and TAs, who run clubs during their own time and on a completely voluntary, for their dedication.

New School Website

I am delighted to announce that our new school website is live! Mrs Bamber and her highly skilled techie son Matt, have worked exceedingly hard on the new website for some months now.

Mrs Bamber will be sending out a letter to explain how the site is designed so that you can get the maximum benefit from using it for your children and your family.



Friends of Fawkhams(PTA) NEED YOU!!!

During each academic year, with your support and help, FoF raise between £6000 and £8000 for the children of our school.

In past years money has been spent on the following:-

- Camera and replacement parts
- Computers
- Flowers and Compost
- Rugs for classrooms
- Display Resources
- Leavers Bibles
- Hessian rolls for display
- Headteacher Tea Party Refreshments
- Leavers' Gifts
- Twinkl subscriptions
- Christmas gifts from Father Christmas
- Easter eggs
- Leaver's treats
- Mosaic and workshop for the front of the building
- Whole school pantomime trip – tickets and transport

There are still some funds in FoF's bank account which are being held for the projects that FoF plan to support this year.

Unfortunately, last year FoF were able to run events due to Covid restrictions; we hope that this year FoF will be fully active again. We therefore need lots of parents to join the committee and/or put their name forward to help out at events. Unless there are enough parents willing to help then many of the events which the children and families usually enjoy will not be able to go ahead; this includes children's discos, visits to the pantomime, Christmas fair and Christmas and Easter gifts for the children.

PLEASE come to the Zoom AGM on TUESDAY 21st September at 7:00pm – I will send the Zoom invite to all families shortly. I look forward to seeing you there.



Teachers/TA cover

Teachers need to attend courses and meetings during the year to keep up to date with current educational thinking that will enable us to further develop as a school. When teachers are out of school their classes will be taught by the following members of staff:-

Dormice	Miss Payne and Mrs Panesar	Miss Bridges
Hedgehogs	Miss Rawlings	Miss Bridges or Mrs Hollands
Badgers	Mrs Golding-Williams	Miss Bridges or Mrs Foreman
Squirrels	Miss Hurdle	Miss Bridges or Mrs Foreman

As always all classes will also have a TA supporting them:-

Class	TA
Dormice	Mr Banks
Hedgehogs	Mrs Hollands and Mrs Wise
Badgers	Miss Burchell and Mrs Wise
Squirrels	Mrs Foreman

Teachers PPA cover

Planning, Preparation and Assessment time (PPA) and cover for teachers NQT time and Leadership time this year is as follows:-

Teacher	PPA Day	Class Cover
Miss Rawlings	Terms 1,2,5 & 6 Tuesdays	Miss Richardson
	Terms 3 & 4 Mondays	
Mrs Golding-Williams	Terms 1,2,5 & 6 Mondays	Miss Richardson
	Terms 3 & 4 Tuesdays	
Miss Hurdle	Wednesday afternoons	Mrs Foreman

Please be aware that the class teachers may not be on the school premises during their PPA time. Please also note that in addition to those teaching the classes there will also be a TA in each class.

Harvest Festival in St Mary's Church

I am so pleased to say that St Mary's Church are now able to welcome us back for our school church services. Our first service is on Thursday 23rd September at 9am. Everyone will need to bring their child to church in full school uniform. Parents are welcome to stay for the service after which you need to drive your child back to school.



Class Newsletters

Class newsletters will continue to be sent produced by teachers – these are invaluable for you to know what is going on in your child's class, There are reminders about forthcoming events in these too so please ensure that you read them.

PE Kits

We have decided that on PE days children are going to continue to be permitted to wear their PE kit to school for the day. As a reminder, as per our prospectus and uniform policy, children need to wear:-

Pliimsolls, plain navy shorts/skorts (no logos/white stripes etc.) and Tee shirts in team colours with the school badge. Trainers can be worn on the field and plateau.

All children's clothing must be clearly named (including footwear). NO JEWELLERY to be worn on PE days. Plain navy blue or black jogger bottoms/leggings can be worn on top of shorts/skorts during cold weather along with their school jumper/cardigan.



Reminders



Just to remind you that the only water bottles that children will be permitted to have in their classrooms will be the school water bottles or clear, totally transparent bottles – far too many children were failing to follow this rule last academic year – please make sure that your child has the correct bottle. Only water will be permitted to be consumed during lessons unless a medical reason and proof of this is submitted. The school water bottles can be purchased for £1.50 from the school office. Keeping children hydrated is important for them to be able to focus and keep their brains active.

Children are ONLY permitted to bring in fresh vegetables or fresh fruit for consumption at playtimes.

Children who have packed lunches are ONLY permitted to bring in a maximum of two processed food items in their packed lunches – further encouraging healthy eating. Please may we request that packed lunches do not contain nuts or any obvious nut products e.g. peanut butter/Nutella as we have some children in school with severe nut allergies.

Children are not permitted to bring in pens, pencils, rulers, pencil cases or any other stationary items as these are all provided by us.

Under no circumstances are cars to park in front of the houses in the Village Hall car park – ONLY in allotted spaces, thank you.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Following elections last term the following children have been appointed to the following prestigious roles:-

Head Girl – Beau **Head Boy** – Jack

School Council

Head Girl and Head Boy	–	Beau and Jack
Year 1 Representatives	–	Scarlett and Oscar Ch
Year 2 Representatives	–	Florence and James
Year 3 Representatives	–	Ivy and Joshua
Year 4 Representatives	–	Elise and George
Year 5 Representatives	–	Sienna and James (Yr R)
Year 6 Representatives	–	Lauren and Ryan

School Uniform Hair Adornments

Just a reminder of what our school uniform policy says about hair adornments:-

All children, whose hair is long enough for a pony tail, need to wear their hair in a pony- tail, plait or bun, even on Tag Days. The hair bands to keep their hair back, must be navy blue, blue or white. No bows or other adornments are permitted.

Jewellery in school

Just a reminder that the ONLY jewellery that children are allowed to wear is a plain wrist watch and plain stud earrings.

Safeguarding Children



If any parent or carer is concerned about a child's welfare or wellbeing please see me as I am our school's Designated Safeguarding Leader. Should I not be in school please speak to my Deputy Safeguarding Leaders - Mrs Golding-Williams, Miss Richardson and Mrs Bamber. Everything will be treated in the strictest of confidence. TOGETHER we will ensure that ALL children are able to thrive and are well cared for.

Online Safety

Online Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Fawkham CEP School. We can only be successful in keeping all of our children safe online if we work together to ensure that online safety messages are consistent and that all members of the community behave safely and appropriately online.

More information for parents/carers about online safety can be found at the following places:

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents
- www.saferinternet.org.uk
- www.childnet.com
- www.nscpsc.org.uk/onlinesafety
- www.internetmatters.org
- www.getsafeonline.org



Attendance

As you know attendance is extremely important if your children are to thrive and progress well in their education. Missing one or two days during a week has a huge impact on their ability to keep up in lessons on their return, as often they will have missed some of the essential building blocks of learning. The government says that attendance should be at least 95% to be reasonable and 98%+ to be excellent. Children who fail to reach these levels are having their life chances considerably reduced.

Obviously, the pandemic has had an impact on school attendance during the last two years and this has had a profound impact on some children's learning. Please help us to help your child have the best chance at thriving at school by ensuring excellent levels of attendance.



School Winter Hats

We are selling school winter hats this year for £6.50 from the school office. Please come and look at them before you buy your children new winter hats as they are both a good quality and reasonably priced.

School Bags

The ONLY bags allowed in school are a book bag and forest school clothes bag. Any children in reception who have already brought in their PE bag will be bringing them home on Monday

Covid 19 Update

New guidance has been published during the summer that outlines all of the changes to the response that the government are making in light of being at Step 4 of the Roadmap. Guidance for parents can be found here:-

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges)

New guidance has been published for schools and, as always we are following the guidance to the letter.

The main differences that will impact on the way that we operate as a school during the coming months are:-

- There will no longer be bubbles at any point during the school day so we will be able to hold worship, playtimes and lunchtimes as we always do as a whole Fawkham Family community.
- There is no requirement to wear face masks – we may ask that you wear them when coming into school for events where there are large numbers of people gathered – such as Christmas Fair, Productions and Church Services but you no longer need to wear them when outside on school property.
- Since 16th August test and trace and isolating guidance has also changed:-
‘children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as normal’

For adults, anyone who has had two vaccines or who hasn't had the vaccines as medical reasons mean that they cannot have them, will no longer have to isolate if they are a close contact.

SO, IF we have a positive case of Covid in our Fawkham Family, no siblings, family members or bubbles will need to isolate unless informed by the test and trace system that they have to. Close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test but they may continue to attend school/work whilst they are awaiting the PCR test result. I am delighted to say that by early October all of our staff in school will have received both vaccines.

- We will have a contingency plan in place should we have a local lockdown situation or if we are asked, as a school to resume bubbles.

The following strategies will continue to be used here at Fawkham to help minimise any potential spread of the virus:-

- Regular cleaning during the school day of touch spots and surfaces, including toilets.
- ‘Catch it, bin it, kill it’ use of tissues to blow noses and cover coughs and sneezes.
- Regular thorough washing of hands.
- Good ventilation in all rooms – windows and doors open – as the weather gets colder children will be permitted to wear more layers of clothes on top of their uniform to keep warm but these must be blue, black, grey or white in colour.
- To start with, keeping a minimum number of visitors coming into the school buildings until we see the what happens in the few weeks of the academic year with regards to the virus.

As I said at the start of my newsletter, we start our year full of hope, that we might return to our ‘normal’ Fawkham Family school year. I will of course keep you updated if anything changes.

Worship

Don't forget, to keep you informed, on our website homepage there will be a ‘thought’ and a ‘prayer’ for the week, both of which link to the theme of worship for that week.



I know that this academic year holds lots of exciting opportunities for the children to thrive and progress. Together we - the governors, staff, children and you will help our ‘Fawkham Family’ to strive to even greater heights. Off we go.....

Best wishes,



Miss M.J.Bridges
Headteacher