

Banks Road Infants and Nursery School

"A Home for Learning, Laughing, Caring and Trying"

END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER

27.07.2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since March 2020 we have all had to dig deep to find the energy, the resolve, over and over again as each new challenge has presented itself throughout the pandemic to maintain as safe a school environment as we can. This has been relentless. As head teacher, I have often found myself enforcing rules that may not be understood or even some which the government in other ways have abandoned! The 'latest' guidance from the government has been frequent and we have constantly ensured that we are reviewing the safety measures in place. The pandemic has certainly challenged everyone in our school community but it also brought out the best in us too.



Thank you for supporting the school during these turbulent times that we have faced in education: for your support in home schooling your children during school closure and for recognising the incredible work of the staff team throughout the last sixteen months. For September we are hoping, with all hope, that our school day can return to some sort of normality.

As a school we have emphasised throughout this pandemic that it is vital that a risk assessment is fully implemented which outlines proportionate control measures to manage and reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. It is important that this risk assessment is a live document that is kept up to date as required. Our risk assessment for the Autumn term will show which existing control measures will remain in place but the key controls such as ventilation, hygiene procedures and cleaning regimes must remain.

At the time of writing and along with the DfE guidance dated 15 July 2021 we are planning the following for the start of September:

1. We are no longer required to keep pupils in bubbles. (This applies to our holiday club provision over summer and school in term-time from autumn 2021)
2. We can resume our whole school assemblies
3. We no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch time.
4. In-school attendance is mandatory for all pupils, except for those who are self-isolating (we will continue to provide remote learning for any pupils unable to attend due to self-isolation or shielding).

It is important that the risk assessment can be adapted to remove/reintroduce controls when required and we have the flexibility to respond to risks in a way that suits our schools circumstances while complying with our duties under health and safety legislation.

The remainder of this letter is to give you some information of the most important things to know for the beginning of our school year in September.

▪ ROUTINES AND PROCEDURES



The staggered drop off and pick up times will no longer be applied and the school day will run from 8.45 am – 3.15 pm for reception, year 1 and year 2.

All classes will enter school via the gate at the bottom of the ramp into the playground (The gate in the staff car park will no longer be used)

🚦 **Doors open at 8.45 a.m. for a prompt start at 8.50 a.m.**

✚ Morning playtime for KS1 classes is from 10.30 a.m. to 10.45 a.m

✚ There are 3 sittings for dinner (2021-2022):

11.30-12.10	12.00-12.45	12.30-1.00	1.00 – 1.30
Reception lunch	Reception play (12.15 – 12.45)		
	Year 1 lunch (12.00-12.30)	Year 1 play	
		Year 2 lunch	Year 2 play

✚ Afternoon playtime for KS1 classes is from 2.25 p.m. to 2.35 p.m.

✚ School finishes at 3.15 p.m. (When children leave school at the end of the day, the class teacher ensures that your child is being met by the appropriate person. For any changes in your usual pick up arrangements, please let the class teacher know or contact the school office)

▪ **ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY**

As parents you are legally responsible for ensuring your children of school age receive a suitable full time education. The most important thing that a parent/carer can do is to make sure that their child goes to school regularly and arrives on time. Arriving late in the classroom can make children feel anxious or embarrassed, and arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 whole school days lost every year. In the event of illness, it is important that you contact the school before 9:30am on the morning of any absence.

At Banks Road we say that Every Second of Every Minute of Every Day at School Counts.

▪ **SUPERVISION AT DROP OFF AND PICK UP**

We ask that you support us by reminding your child(ren) to make the right choices during drop off and pick up by:

- ensuring your child(ren) is (are) closely **supervised** at all times whilst on school grounds. Please remind your child(ren) to remain with you at all times whilst on school site.
- intervening if your child becomes involved in **inappropriate** activities / behaviours
- not allowing them to use any equipment. This is for the **safety** of your child(ren). (Please remember it is important that before and after school, children and younger and older brothers and sisters **DO NOT** use the playground equipment. This is due to strict Health and Safety responsibility of the school. It will be hard asking your child to keep off at these times but we rely on all parents/carers to support us with this.)

▪ **PARKING**

All schools seem to have the same problems...problems caused by their own communities. At Banks Road we are no different and parking around the school site is inherently dangerous for our children and families as well as potentially causing health issues from vehicle emissions, all through inconsiderate parking. We frequently get complaints from our residential neighbours of parents parking across driveways, on pavements and too close to the many junctions near to our school. There is no designated parking so we rely on your cooperation and engagement to be more considerate about parking, road safety and pollution. Make different choices: walk to school if time allows, use parking at the Green wood Community Centre and please remember that inconsiderate parking is an accident waiting to happen.



▪ ASSEMBLIES

Assembly will be each morning at 10.10 a.m. Assemblies provide an important opportunity for reinforcing our ethos and developing further the moral, spiritual, cultural and social aspects of school life.

▪ Uniform

School Standards Minister Nick Gibb said: *School uniforms are important in establishing the right ethos in a school. They also help to improve behaviour and a sense of belonging and identity. But we want to be sure they are affordable for parents.*

You can buy our Banks Road logo uniform from Just School Wear in Long Eaton but equally we have always adopted a flexible uniform policy and plain red sweatshirts, jumpers and cardigans as well as white or red plain polo shirts can also be purchased at larger supermarkets.

Most importantly we want all our children to feel comfortable in the clothes and footwear they wear for school. We have a curriculum that involves much outdoor learning provision, including Forest School, so our children need to be suitably dressed for this! We encourage footwear with Velcro or buckle fastenings and no open toed sandals. School shoes are, no doubt an expensive purchase so trainer type shoes are ideal.

Our second hand uniform sale is also good option. We ask for a donation from this for our school fund.



▪ PE



From September we would like our children in year 1 and year 2 to arrive at school on their allocated PE day, dressed in their PE kit. When the weather turns a bit colder, please ensure they also have a sweatshirt on and joggers (over their shorts) for outdoor activities and playtimes. This is to save time getting undressed and dressed and also to prevent bulky bags being stored on limited peg space in the classrooms.

- Year 1: Cherry class will have dedicated PE timetabled on Monday, Maple class on Friday
- Year 2: both Oak and Willow classes will have dedicated PE timetabled on a Wednesday

Our reception children do not require a PE kit in September. Your class teachers will inform you later in the year when this may change.

▪ Lunches

All pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state-funded schools are eligible for the universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). We do encourage all children to access a hot school meal but you may wish to provide your child with a packed lunch. This may be ad hoc or daily and we do allow a mixture of school dinners and packed lunches. Lunchtime registers are taken each morning in class.

If you do provide your child with a packed lunch you must ensure that it is **nut free**, this includes:

- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Chocolate spreads
- Cereal bars
- Some granola bars
- Cakes that contain nuts
- Biscuits / Cookies that contain nuts
- Peanut butter cakes
- Some Asian food, including satay
- Sauces that contain nuts
- Anything containing Nutella.



This list is not exhaustive so please check the packaging of products closely.

We have children in school with severe nut allergies who can be seriously affected with potentially life-threatening allergic reaction by someone else who is eating or may have recently eaten nuts. We do have to insist we are a nut free school. I know if this was your child you would expect that we all help, especially as it is a life-threatening condition.

Lunch boxes should not contain sweets, chocolate bars or fruit flavoured drinks (children are provided with water)

▪ DRINKS AND SNACKS

We only allow water in school. No fruit squash or fruit juice to be sent in water bottles. Every child is provided with a piece of fruit for morning snack but you may send your child with an additional piece of fruit.

▪ VOLUNTEERS IN SCHOOL



Visitors and volunteers at our school bring with them a wealth of skills and experience that can enhance the learning opportunities of the children. Banks Road welcomes and encourages them. We will be welcoming back our helpers into school and you will be required to attend an induction first. The date of this will be sent out early next term.

▪ LEAVERS / OUR GOODBYES

Finally, I would like to wish all children who are leaving us at the end of this academic year all the very best on their journey. I know that they have all had a great start here at Banks Road and know that they will go on to achieve great things in the future. We will miss them terribly but we are equally so very proud of them.



We will be very sad to say our farewells to some of our staff too! Mr Wigley will finish his maternity cover role in Oak class and is moving to a position at another school. Miss McKeeman has also secured a position elsewhere and we thank her for covering in Cherry class whilst Miss Holmes has been working at home. Mrs Kerry has been a dinner lady at our school for 19 years and is now hanging up her apron to enjoy some R&R. Miss Ford has been an outstanding student teacher in Willow class this year and has also secured a teaching position. Finally, Mrs Morgan, who has worked as class teacher across school and more recently in Birch class, will also be saying her goodbyes and will be moving on to new adventures. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their hard work and dedication to the school and wish them all the very best for the future.

And Huge CONGRATULATIONS to Miss Holmes who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Milo, on Monday 19 July. We are thrilled for her!

As we come to the end of this academic year, it is with great pride that I can look back at the many achievements of Banks Road throughout, what can only be called a very challenging year! The children have worked so hard and achieved so much, showing so much resilience. There is always a real 'buzz for learning' around school and your children appreciate all the opportunities they are given within school, making the most of every aspect of school life.

Have a great



Whatever you and your family are doing...

and we look forward to seeing you (some not all) again on Thursday 1st September. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Carole Clemens
Head Teacher