



Life in all its fullness

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Dear All

I hope you are back in the swing of things! A huge welcome to all our new families and I hope every-one is beginning to get used to our routines etc. It does take a whole year, as there are so many one-off events, so please do not hesitate to come and ask if you are not sure about anything. If you have a question then someone else will too! Ask!

Sorry...

I would like to express my sincere apologies regarding the letter, which came out to you just before the beginning of term. We had meant to send it out sooner, but various things conspired against us and then the technology failed to deliver some of the e-mails! Not good – I am so sorry.

Mrs Watkins and I really value good communication and we have always tried to be timely in our correspondence with you. We are devastated because during the pandemic we worked really hard to keep in touch and even sent some letters out at 10pm (as soon as we had received guidance or information etc.) and then we managed to send a curve ball out just before the term started. The PE kit situation!

I have heard that this caused some consternation (and once again, I am sincerely sorry). However, please do come and **talk to Mrs Watkins and myself** about any issues such as this. We know we are not perfect, but we always try to do better! We have always prided ourselves in working well with parents and being open to listen. Unfortunately, the pandemic made this very difficult but we are keen to make sure we build up those personal links again. Please know we do value your insight and opinion on things. You have a different angle, which we are keen to take into account **if we can.**

If you send your child to school in PE kit on the wrong day, please do be assured that this is not a problem. We are trialling this approach for several reasons:

1. Because we were wasting so much time changing and want to lengthen the actual 'active part' of the lesson
2. Because we are using our ring-fenced PE Grant to pay for a specialist sports coach and we want to get value for money
3. Because we have fewer Teaching Assistants and are unable to support changing in quite the same way
4. Because our cloakrooms are tiny and the children couldn't find anything and regularly couldn't find their kit amongst the 'jumble sale' like pile, further shortening lessons (even when we tried to reduce the size of bags!)

I do hope you are able to use the drawstring bags for spare clothes etc. but if you feel, you now do not want your bag please let me know and I will organise you to be reimbursed.

Please remember that as we get into the colder months we are very happy for children to wear tracksuits / joggers etc. They will need shorts and T-shirt for gymnastics.

If there are any problems with this new way of doing things, please let either Mrs Watkins or myself know and we will try to find a solution / work things out, if we can.

Finally...

As you may be aware, during the last two academic years, a number of Teaching Assistants left the school and we were unable to replace them due to financial constraints. This means that each member of staff is covering more and more bases. There may not always be someone in the office* and the gate at the end of the day will be opened as soon as a member of staff is available, (hopefully at 14:55). Please bear with us as we try to adapt.

Thank you for your help and co-operation with these changes.

Kay Bridson



*Mrs Munt does her best to answer the phone and e-mails, as soon as she can, but sometimes she is walking round the school and cannot be in two places at once. Last minute phone calls may not get through, so please do not leave messages until the very end of the day if possible. We do understand emergencies happen so please do not add to your worry by panicking if you cannot get through to us. We will always hold onto your child and we will keep them safe.