

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a lovely first full week in school and the children have all been engrossed in learning their new topics and trying hard to follow our new rules of Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe. It was wonderful to see so many supportive and interested parents at our “Empowerment Approach” session on Wednesday led by Kit Messenger. Kit explained the theory behind the approach and gave some great tips for parents / carers to use at home to complement the approach in school. There was no powerpoint or slides to share as it was a live video but we will be sharing “Empowerment Approach” newsletters with you to provide further updates and ways to help at home.

Rewards

One query has been “Are you continuing rewards?” and the answer is yes! Whilst we hope that eventually children will be intrinsically motivated to ensure they are pro-social learners because it’s just the right thing to do, we recognise we are not there yet! House-points are awarded via Class Dojo for showing our five school values, for being Ready, Respectful and Safe and for our “spotlight” which is currently reading at home.

As before, we will still have weekly celebration assemblies for star of the week, Numbots / TTRS champions, reading / phonics superstars, music certificates, etc. House points still accumulate towards bronze, silver, gold, platinum, etc. Certificates and we continue to have Hot Chocolate Fridays weekly and our termly Bartonian awards ceremonies. We will always encourage and motivate children through genuine praise for effort and as teachers get to know the children so can be sincere and accurate in their praise and rewards for what is truly an achievement for each child as an individual.

Trips, visits, curriculum for the year ahead

We are finalising plans for the Y3 and Y6 residential visits and other day trips, visitors and experiences for the children to enhance and bring to life the curriculum this year. The cost of coaches continues to rise and we are mindful of not placing a burden on household finances, whilst also not having any surplus in the school budget to fund transport. We will shortly be sending each year group a plan of all known costs for the year ahead to help you to budget and pay an equal amount each month for these experiences. You will see on your child’s curriculum forecast how each trip links with the curriculum. We will also be sending our yearly events calendar of dates, parents’ evenings, PTA fundraisers, etc. very soon to support you to plan ahead!

Communication with school staff

A reminder we have an “open-door policy” where we welcome parents and carers catching teachers or teaching assistants on the classroom door at the beginning or end of the school day with a quick message. Longer or private conversations would need to be booked in advance to give them the space and confidentiality required – you can do this either by speaking with the teacher or emailing the office to organise. In Key Stage Two, parents are welcome to come through the gates and to the classroom doors of Y4 Thistle and the Y5 and Y6 classes where the teachers wait on the doors to supervise children and greet them in the morning and are also available at the end of the day for a quick chat. Mr Morris, Mrs McManus, Mrs Brennan and Mrs Martin (our ELSA) are also on the gate every morning and are happy to have a quick chat and help in any way we can.

Your child's class teacher should always be your first port of call for incidents and can usually help and answer queries or concerns. If the class teacher cannot help, then you can escalate to the phase leader, then the deputy head and then, finally, to me. The attached pyramid explains our communications process.

Please note, to protect our staff and to look after their work-life balance, we will no longer be responding to emails or SeeSaw messages outside of working hours. If something is urgent and must be read / actioned on the same day, this should always be a telephone call to the office. Staff, including senior staff, have teaching commitments and are very busy but all emails / calls will be followed-up as per our policy. Many thanks for your understanding.

Wishing you a lovely weekend – enjoy the Earls Barton Soap Box Derby if you are attending!

Kind regards,

Miss Lally

Up-coming dates

Thursday 28th Sept, 9.00 to 10.00am - EY phonics presentation to parents

Letters home this week

Year 6 residential letter – Y6 only

Caythorpe residential trip – Y3 only

Volunteer request for DT – Y4 only

EY various reminders – EYFS only

Seesaw permission form

Clarinet music project – Sunflower class only

Welcome to recorder club – Y2 attendees only

EY parent's information about phonics invitation – EYFS only

Applying for a secondary school place – Y6 only

Reading with your children

Reception class arrangements this week – EYFS only

Head Lice letter – Holly class only

Keeping children safe on Whatsapp – Y6 only

Attachments

Communication/ complaints pyramid