

Friday 23rd October

End of term 1 newsletter



Dear parents/carers,

I would first like to begin with a thank you for your support for your children and the school this term; it's been the most unusual term we've ever known! We must give credit to our amazing children too! They returned to school with such enthusiasm, kept up with some fast paced learning to help them catch up and cover some of the curriculum they missed over lockdown and they grew into the new normal of seeing their teachers and other adults wearing visors, masks and gloves. The children are a credit to their families and as a school we are very proud of them.

UPDATES

Term 2: begins on Monday 2nd November. For our lower school children, reading and phonics are timetabled at the start of the day and for our upper school children, it is maths; with this in mind, it is really important that all children arrive at school on time so that they are not missing out on learning that will help them to flourish.

Christmas: I know it's early to be thinking about Christmas but Covid has forced our hand. As you are aware, we are unable to welcome parents into the school building at the moment which will have an impact on Christmas performances. We are looking at a variety of options: CDs and video recordings being at the top of the list but we need to be mindful of our most vulnerable children who can't be filmed, but still need to be included. If you have any bright ideas, then please get in touch!

Uniform: Thank you to the majority of our families who ensure that children are dressed in school uniform each day. Please remember that PE days aren't non-uniform days – children should be in their house colour T-Shirt, black shorts or black/dark tracksuit bottoms and trainers. Teachers will begin reminding the children in term 2 so you may want to get ready over the holidays if your child has not been wearing the correct PE kit.

School bags: As the weather is changing, we have reviewed our policy with school bags. Children will be able to bring a book bag/rucksack into school in term 2. No other belongings, except a coat, water bottle, lunch box and reading book must be brought into school. We continue to try and minimise the amount of items going to and from school.

Home-learning: For those of you who have needed to, you will be aware of the home-learning ready on the school website. We continue to adapt and review so if you ever can't find what you need, then please give us a call. We have had some fantastic live learning happening this week. It has been brilliant to see some of our self-isolating children on video calls with their teachers and continuing their learning from home!

Breakfast club: In line with our current risk assessment, we are still unable to offer our breakfast club provision. We will review this at the end of term 2.

After school sports clubs: TSC (the wonderful sports company that we employ) will be starting up some clubs in term 2. We will be able to provide clubs to year group bubbles. Places are limited so watch out for the letters which will come home at the start of term 2.

Reading: What a fantastic start we have had with home-reading – thank you! Children are reading more than ever before, with our junior children particularly excited to complete the Accelerated Reader quizzes at the end of the book. Reading is one of the most important skills that will carry your child through their teenage years, into their adult years so we thank you for the effort you are making to listen to and encourage your child to read.

Coronavirus tests: Please continue to inform the school if your child is tested for Coronavirus – we have a lot of reporting to the DFE that we have to complete and this information is important to us. If your child receives either a positive or negative test result over half term, please let us know by emailing office@djpa-tkat.org as you will be unable to reach us on the phone.

Enjoy a happy and restful half term. For our children and families already self-isolating, I hope you can make the most of the rest. We look forward to seeing you all in term 2.

Mrs G. Sherwin

Head of School