

22 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a short week and the children in many cases returned on Tuesday reflective after watching the Queen's funeral. Where appropriate, further circle time, discussions and support was given.

This week, the Senior Leadership began our learning walks and are impressed with the quality of writing so early in the year, particularly in Year 1. We are impressed with the impact of our new phonics scheme; Little Wandle Letters and Sounds. We have joined a project to develop humanities with other selected Surrey Schools. Our focus will initially be aimed at Year 3 and Year 4 and both children, staff and our own observations already indicate a positive impact.

Next Friday Mrs Moorhouse leaves us to go on Maternity Leave, very exciting indeed and we wish both Mr and Mrs Moorhouse well in the coming weeks. We promise to share her news as soon as we can!

Next week, Mrs Ali and the Year 4 team go on their residential to Marchants Hill in Hindhead; I am sure that they will all have an amazing time! I look forward to hearing all about it on their return.

Autumn Parent Consultations

The dates for Parent Consultation Evenings are now in the school calendar. We have reflected on the gains for families during Covid with the online options and have received feedback that, for some of you, this is still a preference to support childcare, parents joining from work/different locations and ease of other commitments. For some of you however, returning to face to face will be preferable and again, we have had feedback on this. To that end, we will have one of the two evenings online and one here in school. As with all parent consultation slots, it is on a first come first served basis. We hope that everyone is able to book a slot for their favoured option and that you appreciate our efforts in serving both preferences.

Parent Consultations are 8 November (Face to face) and 10 November (Google Classroom). Slots will be available to book from 7.00pm on 31 October.

Parent Pop-Ins are scheduled for 4 November to share and celebrate your children's learning with your children

School Attendance

This week we had our first visit from the Local Authority 'EWO', now called the Inclusion Officer. Their role is to look at all children's attendance and in particular those who are identified as Persistent Absentees ie whose attendance falls below 90%.

Research has proven that a child's attendance has a direct impact on their learning and wellbeing. Those children who are regularly absent from school / regularly late do not achieve their potential and do not achieve as well as those with good attendance. Please support your child and the school by ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives ready to learn and on time at 8.40am. It can be disconcerting for a child to enter a room late, when their class have already begun their first lessons.

As a school, we are unable to authorise requests for children to be taken out of school for a holiday during term time. Requests for leave can only be granted in exceptional circumstances, and a holiday is not considered exceptional by the DfE. Requests for leave must be made in advance, by completing the necessary Leave of Absence Request form. This can be found on the Attendance page on the [school website](#).

Regular attendance at school is vital in helping our children to achieve their full potential and get the best possible start in life. Please see the attached flyer with more information.

Lost Property

We are finding an increasing amount of unnamed lost property around the school. Please help us to return items to their owner by naming everything. Reminder - anything unnamed and unclaimed at the end of each half term is donated to the PA for our Second-Hand uniform sales.

New security gates

The new gates will have the capacity to connect to both Clubland and Acorns Nursery in addition to the School Office. At the moment, please select the Reception option as the others will not be connected to the school's computer system for a few more weeks.

Please note the exit button is on the wall at the left of the gate.

School Census Day and Harvest Festival Lunch – 6 October 2022

It is important for your child to attend school every day, but particularly on **Thursday 6 October** as it is **School Census Day**. Census Day is the day when the Department for Education collects information about all schools and their pupils, which is then used to calculate the funding for our school. Information collected includes free school meal eligibility, ethnicity, special educational needs and attendance. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a **Universal Free School Meal** and the amount of money we receive to fund this is based purely on the number of children who take up the offer of the Universal Free School Meal on Census Day. The more children in these year groups who order a meal on Thursday 6 October, the more money we generate for our school and our pupils. If your child is in one of these year groups and does not currently have a school lunch we would like to invite you to sample our special Harvest themed hot lunch on Census Day.

If your child brings a packed lunch in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, we would still encourage you to sign up for this special free meal on Census Day (even if you still want to send a packed lunch too).

Children in Acorns Nursery or Key Stage 2 who would like to book a lunch, the cost of this lunch is £2.60. Please let us know by Wednesday 28 September and make sure you have topped up their Parentmail lunch account, so the kitchen can place their food order.

As an extra incentive the children will be offered a Harvest festival themed lunch and dessert! You can view the menu [here](#) – Yummy!