

17th September, 2019

WHAT A GREAT START TO THE YEAR - WE HAVE STARTED AS WE MEAN TO GO ON!

Dear All

Attendance Matters

You will have received a copy of our recent update on 'Attendance Matters' – please ask for a copy, if you did not.



Attendance is a key priority for us and sits alongside childrens' entitlement and right to attend school – **full-time, on time, all the time.**

Thank you to all of you who have worked really hard to ensure children are in, on time, every time, all the time!

Strict policy is followed regarding lateness, persistent absence (continual lateness) and non-attendance.

Let's all work together to ensure we are alongside you in ensuring your children get the very best start.

As you have been great at joining in with our new arrangements, **from next Monday, September 23rd, we shall be closing the entrance gates at 8.50am. Make sure you're here!**

Curriculum Overviews



This week you will receive a copy of each year group's termly learning – please ask if you don't.

This will detail what everyone is learning, how it fits into the whole-school picture and, most importantly, how **YOU** can help/support/join us!

It will also contain key dates, information about PE/Sports, planned visits or visitors and when you will be invited in to share your children's learning.

Mobile Phones

Please note that as from Monday 23rd September children will no longer be allowed to bring mobile phones to school, unless in exceptional circumstances, which have been approved, **in advance**, by myself or Mr. Kiff.



Any children found with phones in their bags/pockets will have these confiscated, will receive a consequence, and the phones shall be returned to you directly.

Please support us in this – it is just one of our many strategies to ensure your children are safe, not engaging in any on-line bullying, trolling or arguments, and can focus on learning.

It also means they can see where they are walking – as they shall have their heads held high!

One-Way Entrance/Exit

Thank you to all of you who have joined in so willingly with our one-way system – it is SO much better for everyone.



Thank you, also, to those who have shared how much calmer, and safer you have found this new arrangement.

Disappointingly, a small number of parents/carers and elder siblings have presented aggressively and rudely – each of these situations has been carefully handled by the Senior Leaders involved. However, please know that if this continues a very small number of you will be unable to collect your children on site – they shall be brought to you at the gate. This is not a position we wish to place your children, or you into, so please remember that all we do has 2000+ people every day at the heart of it.

It is okay to disagree – but we do it face-to-face as adults, not in front of your children.



Parking

Following a number of complaints to us from residents in Five Ash, Park Avenue and Dover Road East, please can we ask you to park safely, considerately and, most importantly, in a space that allows you to exit our children from your cars pavement-side – NEVER road-side.



I have explained (time and again, to all residents!) that these are all public highways, and you are entitled to park on them, as long as you do not block entrance/exit from their driveway.



On a personal note I wish to ask, once again, that you do not park on the yellow zigzags, or on the double yellow lines – this is putting all our children at risk. As Senior Leaders we have been involved in numerous near-misses and need to insist that you do actually follow this request.



Entrance Lobby

Thank you to those of you who have engaged with our 'no waiting' in the entrance lobby – this has helped considerably with the long queues many of you had complained about.

In case it helps you, the 'quiet' times in our office are from 10.30 – 11.30am, and from 1.30pm to 2.45pm – these are the best times to call in, if your request is non-urgent.

Of course, we are always willing to support – there are many more of us outside than ever before, and most queries can be sorted directly with the teaching team in /for your class/es.



Thank you for not using your 'phones on site – this is much safer for all our children. A small number of people continue to do this – despite repeated requests – if this continues you will be unable to be present on site. Please do not place yourselves in this position.

Nursery – Little Acorns



Timings:

Full day	8.30 – 3.15
Morning	8.30 – 11.30am
Afternoon	12.15pm – 3.15pm

'Free for 2' – Having received approval, we have just registered with Kent County Council to offer additional free nursery places **for up to 15 hours per week**, for children who are 2+ years old. This offer begins the term **after** they turn 2. Additional costs like food, nappies and trips will be invoiced to you, in advance. We are likely to begin this, subject to demand, after October half-term.

<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-2-year-olds>

Additional Hours – If you are only eligible for 15 hours' childcare provision, we may be able to offer you additional hours to support your wish to get back to work, or further education. This costs £5 per hour and must be booked in for either whole morning / afternoon sessions (no flexibility with this), so £15 per session. Additional costs as above will also be invoiced to you.

All Nursery pupils are to be brought on-time for the beginning of each session, and collected at the end of each session, along with all others at school – this is far more settling for your children and will support you, as parents/carers, with routines.

Please ask if you would like to know more.

SAFETY and SAFEGUARDING

Are you...stuck in traffic...on a train with a delay...unable to get across town in time...running late...asking a friend/neighbor/elder child to collect your children from school?



Don't worry – these things happen – to us all!

Please know that we will **always** look after your children for you until you can arrive – safely. All we ask is that you call us with your expected arrival time, and we will do the rest.

If you call us during the school day to change your children's collection arrangements, please remember that we may well ask you for a password to ensure we are handing your children to an appropriate adult; we may also call you back on one of the numbers we hold on your child's records to assure ourselves that the request is genuine.

This only works smoothly for all of us if your contact details are correct. You will shortly receive a copy of the details we hold about you – please amend and return to school immediately.

In the last ten days many families' phone numbers, home addresses and appropriate adults' details have all been incorrect – this puts us all at great risk.



STOP – BULLYING

As you know, our work with children on understanding ‘bullying’ continues daily, and we cover all aspects of the issues surrounding this – at an age-appropriate stage- in line with all national guidance and the law.

However, we need YOUR help!

Some children are still confused about what ‘bullying’ actually is, and the word is used for anything that they are not happy with, both at school, and at home.

To ensure we are all sharing the same message – we are using ‘STOP’ as it is quick and easy to understand.

‘Bullying’ is any behaviour that is repeated **Several Times On Purpose** towards the same person, by the same person or group.

There are many example of what it could be, and what it definitely is not, and we will share these thoughts with you in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, we will really welcome your support with discussing this with your children.



Our new Year 6 longer-length and clip-on ties are on the way!

We will exchange the current elasticated tie for our new tie, free-of-charge, for all Year 6 pupils.

If you do not have one (and we have made sure that all do this week) and you lose the new tie, a new one will need to be purchased – we will name all ties on the day they are given out.

PE/Sports

At the PE/Sports Team’s request we are currently trialling a new system – this is to maximise the amount of time children spend engaging in PE/Sport sessions at school.



If the PE/Sport session is in the morning, children will come to school in their kit.
If the PE/Sport session is in the afternoon, children will go home in their kit.

Thanks for supporting us whilst we trial this. It may not work! We will then rethink...

500 Happy Birthdays!

Imagine having 500 people wish you a ‘happy birthday!’
All children (and staff!) are allowed to wear their own clothes on their birthday – or any day nearest to it.



This worked so well last year – your children loved it.

And, finally...We are really excited that this year has begun so positively for almost all in our learning community – this shows how much potential there is for Copperfield to be really successful this year and to rise above years of negativity, press-shaming and an out-of-date reputation.

We really do want more of you to join us on this journey and would ask that you speak directly to us at any time if we have made an error, missed something that we should have done, or you need to clarify something.

Social media is damaging relationships – often beyond repair – we can all be better than this. Every single issue we have at school we can solve, together, face-to-face. Try it and see!