

Newsletter 1 - Friday 6th September 2019

Dear Families,

A very warm welcome to you all, both to our returning families and to our new ones! It has been a busy start to the term with getting everywhere ready for the children and preparing to more than double our school population; both staff and children! It has meant adapting some of our routines from last year which seem to be working well so far but we will keep reviewing as we go along and we always welcome your feedback.

It was so great to see the children on the first day, they looked so incredibly smart and happy to be here which is the most important thing to us and we had hardly any tears from our new Reception children! They have settled in brilliantly and Miss Jack and Mrs Carlile are very impressed with how they are already used to the class routines. I was particularly delighted to see all the children playing together at lunchtime and lots of new friendships being made. Our Year One children are being fabulous role models for our younger children and showing care and consideration at all times. Don't they look so grown up this year?

Not only do we have a brand new Reception Class but we also opened our Nursery for the first time too! We have ten children in the mornings (which is due to steadily grow throughout the year) and then three that stay with us into the afternoon as we can offer the 30 hour funded places. Please do spread the word as we have a few more spaces available for the 30 hour places. Our Nursery children have done brilliantly too. It's hard to believe they have only been with us a few days! In addition to this, we had three new children start in Year One: Rahmatulla, Mia and Sophia who have also settled in great - it's like they have always been with us! Sadly, Frankie-Leigh's family are moving to Scotland today so we did have to say a fond farewell to them, she will be very much missed.

Weekly Newsletter: Each Friday, a newsletter will come home in the children's book bag to both inform you about future events and also to celebrate our successes from the past week. One of the highlights of my week is our Celebration assembly on a Friday where a child is chosen from each class who has demonstrated the Harrier value that we are working on that half term. This is then shared with you in the newsletter. The value for this half term is from the letter 'E', 'Everyone working together', something we do a lot of here. This will be introduced to the children in my assembly on Monday and I look forward to sharing this with you in this space next week.

Please do your best to read the newsletter each week so you don't miss any upcoming key events.

Dates for your Diary: As a school we do our best to communicate important dates to you with advance notice so that you can plan these into your diaries and around work commitments etc. Next week, a 'Dates for your Diary' sheet will come home and be published on our website. Please do make a note of these so that you are always aware of upcoming events. If in the unlikely event, something needs to change, we will again endeavour to give you as much notice as possible but sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances this is not always possible. Our last year's parents will recall when we had a power outage on the same day of our Fathers' Day Lunch

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- very bad timing! We ended up with no electricity or water and therefore no roast dinner! Fortunately, we were able to reschedule it before we finished for the end of the term.

Staffing introductions: We have had four new staff join us this academic year. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Buckley who will be joining Mrs Blackshaw in the Nursery. We have a new team in Reception class of Miss Jack who is our Early Years Foundation Stage Leader and class teacher and working alongside her is Mrs Carlile. In Year One, we welcome Mrs Morgan who joins Miss Coxon. Mrs Dennis is our School Business Manager and many of you will have met Mr Parker, our Site Manager, Eco Warrior and 11 Before 11 Ambassador. More on this initiative later in the academic year. At lunchtimes, we are joined by Mrs Freckleton and Mrs Bradbury as well as our Cook Miss Karina. We are very fortunate to have such a great team of professionals.

Breakfast Club: Just a reminder that our breakfast club now starts at 7.45am and is open to children in Reception and Year One. The cost is £3 per day, which can be paid by cash or cheque. Payment must be made in advance and can be daily, weekly or monthly. This year, children are very welcome to attend on an ad hoc basis as needed, there is no need to book a place. With effect from Monday 9th September the entrance to Breakfast Club will be changing. For Breakfast Club only please bring your children through the Reception outdoor play area to the right hand Reception class external door.

After School Multi-Sports Club: Please don't forget to complete and send the slip back if you would like your child to attend this FREE club. If it's anything like the great lesson that Year One had last week with Coach Helen, it's going to be great!

PE Kits and clothing labels: Please ensure your child's PE kit is brought to school if you haven't already and that each item of clothing is clearly labelled for both PE and their normal school uniform. As you can imagine, there are a lot of same sized cardigans and jumpers and if they are not labelled it is hard to know who they belong to and can end up getting muddled up or taken home by the wrong child. Thank you for your help with this. PE kits are sent home each half term to be washed and then brought back in at the start of the new term.

We also ask that long hair is tied back so that it is easier for the children to do their work and play but also to prevent the spread of head lice which is a common occurrence in primary schools. Many thanks.

Tapestry for Early Years' Parents: Our online Learning Journal for the children will be launched shortly. This is a fantastic tool where you can find out what your child has been up to at a click of a button and see photographs of them at work (or play!) at school with comments from the teaching staff. We will let you know as soon as this is up and running with the details of how you can sign up to the secure site.

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Parking Agreement: Please find attached a copy of our Parking Agreement in case anyone did not receive it via email last week. The majority of our parents have followed the guidelines brilliantly which means our children are safe. Please can I reiterate that there must be no parking or dropping off in the cul-de-sac the school is situated on between 8:30 and 9:30am and 3pm and 4pm? This is incredibly dangerous as children are walking to and from school. Both myself and Mr Parker have seen parents parking on the yellow restricted single yellow lines. Please avoid doing this. If Traffic Enforcement spot check the area, they will issue parking tickets. Finally, it is imperative that there is enough space for emergency vehicles and vans to fit through cars that are parked on both sides of the road. Please have a quick check before leaving your vehicle that this is the case. We have many elderly residents living on the estate and ambulances unfortunately do frequent this area regularly; it would be terrible if they couldn't get through to attend to a patient. Once again, can I thank you in advance for your support and cooperation with parking? It is greatly appreciated.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to welcoming you and the children back on Monday!

With very best wishes,
Mrs Hopkins.



HENHURST
RIDGE

PRIMARY ACADEMY

PROVIDING THE ROOTS TO GROW AND THE WINGS TO FLY

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