



Meeting Individual Needs

18th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of the Autumn Term, I would like to thank you all for your support and understanding. I would also like to congratulate the children and the staff for all of their work and enthusiasm throughout the term, it has undoubtedly been very busy and there have been a number of changes that everyone has successfully embraced. Despite the current restrictions on the way we need to work, we have been able to end the term with a range of wonderful festive activities, all of which the children have thoroughly enjoyed, in the required socially distanced way. (Christmas lunch, Christmas parties, Christmas movie morning and of course our visit from Father Christmas)

In place of our usual Christmas performance the children and staff have worked really hard to create a filmed Houghton performance of the Twelve Days of Christmas which you will be able to view on our school website and Facebook. We hope you enjoy it. 😊

I would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions of gifts to Bennett House, these were delivered yesterday and I am confident that through your support it will help to bring a smile to the faces of all of the elderly residents.

I have a few important items of information that I need to share with you.

School start and finish times.

We need to continue with the staggered starts and finishes, these are to be adjusted slightly as follows.

Mornings:

8.45 to 9.00 Parents / Carers to drop off their children

9.00 to 9.15 Transport to arrive with children (this may slightly delay your child's pick up time as transport has been arriving prior to the agreed time)

Afternoons:

Monday to Thursday

2.45 to 3.00 Parents / Carers to collect their children

3.00 to 3.15 Children to leave on school transport

Friday

1.45 to 2.00 Parents / Carers to collect their children

2.00 to 2.15 Children to leave on school transport

Curriculum:

We will continue with our recovery curriculum until the February half term holiday, this is proving exceptionally successful in ensuring the children are able to regain any skills that may have decreased over the period of partial opening and to make expected progress.

Contact

As you know it is really important that we have your most up to date contact details, if you have changed any of your details (telephone, email, home address) can I kindly ask you to inform us if you haven't already done so – Thank you.

School Lunches

I wish to thank everyone for their patience during the time that we have been working with the new chef and his team to ensure that the menu offered meets the needs / tastes of our children. The new menu has been issued but I would like to reassure you that we will continue to request adjustments as required.

Staffing

During this term we have appointed two new teaching assistants (Anisha Begum and Saiqa Ehsan) and three new lunch time supervisors (Hannah McDowell, Becky Watton and Tara James) I am confident that they will all enjoy being part of our school community.

It is with sadness that we need to say goodbye to Mrs Norry but we wish her good luck and best wishes, she will be truly missed. On our website & Facebook we informed you that Mr. Parton was due to leave, fortunately for us he is remaining at the school to continue his very valuable role in supporting our children and families.

Extension and refurbishment of the school

After much consultation and close working with the Local Authority and architects the work to extend and refurbish the school is due to begin in January. We are really excited and looking forward to the improved facilities that this will provide. The work will take place over a period of two years and will be undertaken in six phases. I would like to reassure you that disruption to the children will be kept to an absolute minimum and their health and safety will be of the highest priority whilst we have the contractors on site.

I will keep you updated as the work progresses. After the Christmas holiday there will be a dedicated area on the school website which will provide you with details of the work and also photographs.

I have included two architect drawings to show how the external front and rear views of the building will look on completion.



As always, I thank you for working in partnership with us, I would also like to thank you for the many end of terms gifts that have been sent into school for us all, we are really touched by your kindness and exceptionally appreciative. Please remember to feel free to contact us whenever required. On behalf of the governors, staff and myself, I wish you all a wonderful holiday and look forward to seeing the children again on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Kind Regards,

Handwritten signature of Gill Knox in blue ink.

Gill Knox
Head Teacher