

Dear Parents

Happy New Year to you all, I hope you and your families enjoyed the break together. It has been lovely catching up with the children and hearing all their exciting news. They have come back to school with big smiles on their faces, full of excitement, enthusiasm and ready to learn. Teachers will be sending out newsletters outlining learning/topics to be covered this term.



Staffing news

Can we please introduce and welcome Mrs Katie Macko, who is our new school cook. Mrs Macko has worked in catering for over 20 years and is happy to discuss any dietary requirements your child may have with you.

Can we also introduce and welcome Mrs Kay Kift who has joined us this term as a Midday Assistant. Kay has previously worked in another school as a Midday Assistant for 5 years.

We will be saying a sad goodbye to Mrs Emison who is leaving us after Easter. I am sure you will join me in saying congratulations to her for securing her first Deputy Head role. We will be advertising her position next week and will of course keep you updated with any developments. We will ensure we make the transition as smooth as possible for the children, by introducing the new teacher to the children prior to them starting and providing you as parents an opportunity to meet them.



Well done

A big thank you and well done goes to everyone, especially Mrs Cleary, on our National Online Safety Accreditation. As you are all aware we are committed to ensuring our children stay safe online. Children and adults may experience some form of online bullying, which can affect people's mental health and well-being. We continue to spread our message of kindness and teach the children how to keep themselves safe online and as part of this commitment we have organised for Linda Bailey (PSCO) to visit KS2 classes next Friday 21st January 2022 to deliver a Cyberbullying assembly. This session will be followed up with a KS2 homework task for you to complete with your child.



Policy of the month

Once a month we will select a policy as 'our policy of the month' and will email this out to you. As always, we welcome feedback from parents and families, so if you have any comments or questions reading the policy please let us know by replying to the email. We have started with our E-Safety Policy, which Mrs Cleary sent earlier this week.



School Development Plan

The School Development Plan (SDP) is a very important document for us as a school. It outlines:

- What we know about our school
- What we see as our priorities for action
- It puts these into timescales so that it is achievable and can also be measured
- The strategic priorities are agreed by Governing Body, Head teacher and Staff

The SDP is underpinned by detailed plans for each curriculum area.

The Governing Body continually monitors the SDP through termly Headteacher's Report and regular visits to school.

I have attached a summary of MTVS SDP for you to look if you wish to.

As part of this document we have been focusing on children's behaviour, which we recognise goes hand in hand with their wellbeing and mental health, and we would like to share some changes with you.

This year we are introducing **The Zones of Regulation**

The idea of creating Zones of Regulation is '*to teach the children how to regulate their feelings, energy and sensory needs in order to meet the demands of the situation*'. Mrs Weston (our Mental Health and ELSA lead) is leading this change and the juniors have already received some sessions on the zones. We are also organising an information session for you and will let you know more details soon.

We are in the process of reviewing our Behaviour Policy to reflect the Zones of Regulation and we will send this to you as soon as we can. The main principles of our Behaviour Policy remain the same but the language and way we approach situations have changed.

Previous Behaviour Policy	New Behaviour Policy
<p>Children will be given a three strike rule in each session. If a child is not following our school Behaviour Policy, they will be first given a verbal warning. If this continues, they will be given a 'Think' card. The 'Think' card can be taken away if the behaviour improves. If the behaviour persists, the child will be given an amber card and 5 minutes of playtime will be missed. In KS2, children will be awarded a 'Needs Work' Dojo.</p> <p>If this amounts to 3 amber cards in a day, they will be taken to Mrs Lyon to discuss their behaviour.</p>	<p>In the first instance, the child will be given a discreet verbal reminder that their behaviour is not meeting the agreed expectations and they will be prompted to repair their behaviour. Should the unexpected behaviour continue, the child will receive a four coloured 'think card'. This card is intended to serve as a further reminder that they would likely benefit from visiting their Zones Toolkit in order to self-regulate. The card will stay with the child until they feel comfortable with their level of regulation and able to move forward with the expected behaviours. The 'think card' may be taken away by a member of staff upon noting the child's progress or the child</p>

may return it to class staff when they feel ready to do so.

We recognise that every child and every circumstance is unique; therefore, the level of response will also be unique. It may be necessary to stay in at the end of a session with a member of classroom staff to talk through the situation, reflect and restore. It may be necessary for a member of the SLT to become directly involved and consequences imposed (these consequences follow the *School discipline & exclusions guidance* Oct 2016 gov.uk) Serious or ongoing incidents will be logged on EdAware system and the child's parents/carers informed.

Uniform

Can we please remind you for health and safety all children with shoulder length hair should have it tied back for school. Also if your child wears earrings can these please be studs and removed on PE days if possible. If this is not possible a member of staff will tape over the earrings for the PE session.

Tennis Court Gate

Due to our low cases of covid we are relaxing our one way systems and are encouraging children/parents to use the tennis court car park and tennis court gate at the start and end of school to improve the safety of our families. This gate is open from 8.45am until 9am. All children are meet by an adult (usually Mr Reed) in the mornings - Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 say goodbye to their parent at the gate and go straight into class. If your child is in Y2 you can also say goodbye at the tennis gate or if you would prefer you can accompany your child through the gate and then leave them in the playground to line up. You should then exit through the main KS2 gate. Reception and Y1 parents if you use the tennis court gate, please accompany your child through the gate, walk along the path on the field, through KS2 playground, exiting through the KS2 playground gate to re-join the public footpath along School Lane.

It looks like a cold weekend so wrap up warm and enjoy whatever plans you have.



Mrs Wendy Lyon