

Headteacher's Newsletter

September 2021

Welcome back to the new term....and what a busy start to the new school year it has been! My thanks to everyone who has adapted to yet more changes to school systems, as we manage the ongoing Covid situation – in particular, thanks to everyone who read or shared the parent information sent out in the handbook, have adjusted to our new start and finish times and have accessed school grounds so responsibly and respectfully of others.

The children (and staff!) have settled into their new classes and routines really well, with lots of resilience and adaptability on show as they come to terms with their new timings. The 'standard' weekly timetable is taking shape (it always takes a couple of weeks for everything to get up and running – especially as week 2 of this term is when the Year 6 Residential Visit to Ingleborough Hall causes lots of re-arranging) with P.E. times, swimming, Forest School and after-school clubs all up and running.

Hopefully you have all received newsletters from the year-group teachers explaining the work ahead for this half-term (if you haven't had the Ping, you can find them on school's website www.pudseyboltonroyd.org in the Parent Information section of the top bar, click on 2021-22 School Year. All the newsletters, plus copies of school's Covid Risk Assessment are there).

Within this newsletter, there are a few messages I'd like to make you aware of:

- I hope you will join me in welcoming our **new teaching staff** – Mr Naylor, our new Assistant Headteacher, is teaching in Year 6 and Miss Valencia is a class teacher based in Year 3. We welcome some new support assistants too – Mrs Ali and Miss Jackson in Rec and Miss Rybicka in Year 5.
- School's **Family Support Manager** – Christine Morton – is now working a four-day week in school, so please be aware she won't normally be available on Wednesdays. The other Designated Safeguarding Leads in school (Mrs Walsh, Mr Kilner, Mrs Sharp and myself) will be available to help with any queries in her absence on those days.
- **'Before School Club'** is up and running again from 8:30am. We hope to re-start serving a snack (eg toast and jam) soon – at which point we can call it 'Breakfast Club' again! Please note, doors close for this club at 8:40am (as you can take your child straight to class at 8:45). ***We have noticed that some children who have reserved places at Before School Club are not attending – please make sure your child attends regularly, or we will remove their place and offer it to one of the many parents on our waiting list.***
- **Nut-free school** – please note we have several children with extremely severe nut allergies in school – these could be life-threatening in the most extreme cases. ***No child should have anything containing nuts in their packed lunch! Please do not use "chocolate" spread in sandwiches – most types are made with (or contain) hazelnuts.*** We are aware that some chocolate spreads don't have nuts in – but as we have no way of knowing what sort it is, we cannot allow any child to eat chocolate spread. Also, please check that other snacks don't have nuts in (eg certain Kinder bars containing nuts have made their way into packed lunchboxes and children have had to be asked not to open them, so they don't endanger other pupils).

- **Parking** – a reminder never to park in school’s driveway or on the double yellow lines when dropping off/picking up children – this is a traffic offence at school times and traffic officers do monitor parking in the streets around school. Please park sensibly and behave courteously towards the local residents, taking care not to block access to their driveways.

Finally, a couple of messages around routines for P.E. and Forest School:

- **Children coming home in P.E. Kits** – As our afternoon sessions are shorter due to lunch timings in the Hall, we are allowing children to go home in their P.E. kits when P.E. has been their afternoon lesson that day.
Please check that they have remembered to bring their school uniform home so they can wear it the following day – make sure they don’t leave it at school!
- **Jewellery** – Please be aware that it is an absolute rule of Forest School that no child can take part with any piercing (earrings, nose stud etc). If the piercing is not able to be removed, the child cannot attend Forest School - so they have to have to join another class and miss out on this fantastic learning opportunity.
- Please be aware that school will be updating our **P.E. Policy jewellery statement** shortly, following new Health & Safety Guidance from the Association for Physical Education. This asks that all personal effects such as ear and body piercings (including stud retainer and expander earrings), religious artefacts, watches and hair slides are removed for any P.E./Forest School lesson, in order to establish a safe working environment. It goes on to say that staff are not required to remove or tape up earrings for students – the children should come ready for the lesson with piercings removed (or adequately taped – see below).
We are asking for your support in reducing the risk that your child could have a really painful accident. Please ensure that they remove any jewellery, piercing or any other potentially dangerous artefact (or you as parents/carers remove it for them if they are unable to) before any P.E. or Forest School lesson from now on.
In the case that a child has just had a new earring/piercing and they are within the six week ‘settling’ period, it would be acceptable for parents/carers to tape over the piercing, making sure the tape is thick enough to prevent the piercing from penetrating the bone (eg behind the ear in the case of stud earrings).
I appreciate that this can be a faff – but this is ultimately about keeping your child safe and preventing accidents which can lead to really nasty injuries.

Please note that Friday 8th October is a training day – school is closed to the children that day.

Lastly, I’d like to pay tribute to everyone involved in the Year 6 educational visit to Ingleborough Hall – especially Mr Kilner and the staff team who have given up so much of their time with their own families to provide our Year 6’s such a fantastic residential experience. Please check the ‘Latest News’ section (or the Atrium windows near the picnic table) to see the fantastic photos. Well done to the Year 6 children who didn’t go but have been attending so well (100%!) at school and working with Ms Sorhaindo – I have been able to share the date for their day visit to the Show Cave to great excitement! A special mention must go to Anam, who has blazed a trail for our children with disabilities – seeing the photo of her in the Show Cave in her wheelchair reminds us what a special moment this is for our school community.

Best wishes to everyone,

Mr Buck