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Toftwood Infant and Junior School Federation

Newsletter July 2021

Transition

As we approach the end of the year, we have been working hard this term to ensure the children have a smooth transition into their next year of learning with us or in their new schools.

Teaching staff have been working together with the SLT to form new classes where we as professionals feel this would be of benefit. They have been carefully constructed to give the best mix of children, needs, abilities and personalities so the children can progress well with their learning, with each class in the year group being as balanced as possible. Please note these decisions have been discussed by and decided by the professionals working with your children and class allocations will not be changed.

So, what has already happened:

- Teachers have been virtually meeting the next teacher to discuss your child's strengths, areas for development and any other important information
- The next teachers in each year group have been virtually meeting all of the children in the year group so they know who will be in that year group next year, for example, Year 3 teachers have zoomed the Year 2 children. They have zoomed in to chat and to share some information about themselves and what they are looking forward to. Feedback from the teachers shows this has been very well received and appreciated by the children.
- Class staff have been working on making sure everything is in place so the classrooms are 'September ready'. By this, we mean they will look, on Monday, just as they will look in September so all of the children feel familiar and comfortable in a new environment and know exactly what to expect in September. Having the rooms ready means we can also focus our full attention on the children in those there days and not the environment.

What happens next?

- On Monday, bring your child to school noting the **NEW change in times** as set out in the email yesterday. Gates open for ALL children at 8.40 am and will close at 8.55 am. Please ensure, as always, you arrive by this time as we will be supporting children to get to new classes and will not have staff available to come to the gate for any late arrivals. It would also be unsettling for children to arrive late and not be sure of where they are going.
- Children currently in years Reception, Year 1, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 should go to their normal class doors where a member of the school staff will be to greet them and ensure they know where they are going for their transition and their next year at school.
- Current Year 2 children will be met by staff at the Infant School gate and will then line up in their playground zones so we can take them to Juniors and their new teachers.
- Current Year 6 children will be slightly different, please see the separate section for them!

Where do I collect them from?

- On Monday you will receive a text and an email from us telling you which class your child is in. We will also send you a collection diagram so you know where the new lines are for collection. Please note, our collection arrangements will stay the same: only one adult to collect and a mask should be worn. (See section on COVID arrangements later in the newsletter)
- Collection times will be different for those three days and for September. To enable us to get the most from our learning time and keep things simple, ALL Infant children will be collected at 3.15. We will not be walking siblings over to the Infants from Monday as we will not have space. ALL Junior children will need to be collected from the Junior playground and you will need to walk round on the external paths as we will not be using the pathway between the schools. ALL Junior children who need to be collected will need to be collected at 3.25.
- Children in Years 5 and 6 who have permission to walk home alone will continue to leave at 3.15 to avoid overcrowding outside the Junior School but this will be kept under review.

What else may I need to know?

- On Monday, all the children will bring home the one page profile information about their teacher to share with you. Please read it through with them.
- Please be positive about the new teachers and classes. We have been sharing how change is good, how we need to make new friendships in life and how these are positive life experiences.

- Year 2 children can order a lunch as normal at Juniors and for those three days, as they are technically still Infant pupils, they will be free. Lunches in September will need to be paid for by parents, unless you qualify for free school meals.
- Children should wear their school uniform as usual and all procedures remain in place as usual. Please do remember to send a water bottle, hat and jumper or coat. Whilst we can guarantee we will do all we can to ensure they settle, we cannot guarantee the weather!
- The children will be well looked after and supported as they transition to their new classes. We have three days of activities to support this and to make this an enjoyable end to the school year.

New Reception children have already had information emailed to them so please ring the office if you have any queries or have not seen this.

Year 6 transition

The majority of Year 6 will be moving to their new High Schools next week. They have made the arrangements and shared them directly with you, so please ensure you check your emails and contact them if you have any questions.

Children going to Northgate will be there for the full 3 days. You need to take and collect your child from there.

Children attending Neatherd will come to us on the Monday. They will then attend Neatherd on the Tuesday and Wednesday.

Children attending other High schools should attend with us for the last three days unless they have made other arrangements, so please let us know if this is the case.

As far as we know, both Dereham High schools plan to go ahead with their transition, so if this is the case these are the arrangements.

Monday G66 Neatherd children	Monday WS6 Neatherd children and those going to Reepham or Litcha	Monday KH6 Neatherd children
Miss Gilfillan's Neatherd children in the new hall with Mr Barnard. They will eat in the new hall and have break on the Infant top field. Children should come through the Year 6 gate between 8.40 and 8.55 And wait at the door to the new hall..	Mrs Williams Neatherd children, plus children going to Litcham and Reepham in the resources room. They will eat in the resources room and have break on the Infant top field. They will come Year 6 gate between 8.40 and 8.55 and then right through the side gate before the Hoots entrance and then come through the doors by the Y6 toilets and into the Resources room.	Mrs Hughes' Neatherd children in the main hall with Mrs Malone. They will eat in the new hall and have break on the Infant top field. They will come Year 6 gate between 8.40 and 8.55 and then right through the side gate before the Hoots entrance and then come through the doors by the Y6 toilets and into the Resources room.

On **Tuesday and Wednesday**, those going to other High Schools (not Northgate or Neatherd) will be with Mrs Williams again in the resources room, as on Monday.

It is challenging for us as not all High Schools have the same transition, so we have done our utmost to ensure we have a suitable plan in place for Year 6. If it is fine on the Monday we may be able to have Year 6 eating outside.

Uniform

Can we politely remind everyone that uniform expectations are in place until the end of term. We fully appreciate some items may be at the end of their shelf life, but please do your utmost to keep within the rules and let us know if there are any issues.

If you have any old uniform that does no longer fit your child and you would be happy to donate, please do bring it to the school office as we are always in need of spares for a variety of reasons!

Please do refresh your memory of the expectations for September so your child has all the correct items. They do not need to have a logo on, and our website highlights suppliers that have items in the correct colours for a lower cost than branded items. Please note if you want to buy plain jumpers or t-shirts from somewhere other than Birds and have the logo added, they will only offer this service up until 13th August.

The information regarding uniform is on the website:

<https://www.toftwoodfederation.co.uk/parents/school-uniform/>

It is also here for your reference:

Grey or black trousers. Leggings or jeans are not acceptable and neither are skinny or tight trousers.

Knee length black or grey shorts. Short/tight shorts or sports shorts are not acceptable.

Knee length black or grey skirts. Any child who has a skirt that is too short will be lent a spare skirt of an appropriate length. Both high schools insist on this and we are preparing them for the future.

Grey, white or black socks or tights.

Black shoes or boots. These must be plain in colour/design, with no logos. Shoes with heels, ugg type boots are not acceptable. If a child's shoes are not suitable for school and do not meet the uniform code then we will ask them to change into their plimsolls for indoor use. Trainers that are totally black, no logos or different coloured soles can be worn.

Black or white flat sandals. Socks should be worn if a child chooses to wear sandals and they must be suitable for playing outside. Children will not be allowed to use the adventure playgrounds if they are wearing sandals.

White polo shirts. Birds will sell polo shirts with the coloured logo on, or you may buy plain white ones. We have chosen this as plain white polo shirts can be bought cheaply from any shop.

Royal blue round neck sweatshirts or cardigans. Birds will sell these with the logo on, which will be the white version of the logo. If you are buying from elsewhere, then please make sure you have the correct colour. Please see information on this page for alternate suppliers.

Blue and white check knee length Summer dresses.

Black PE shorts. Very tight shorts or very short shorts are not acceptable.

Royal blue plain PE t shirt OR Royal Blue Sports' shirt. Birds sell the plain T shirt in the correct colour from £2.50. The sports shirt is of a different fabric and is more expensive but may be preferred by some parents/carers and children. You can buy these with or without the logo.

Trainers for outdoor PE.

Wellies for outdoor working (This is for Infant children all year round. We will request for Junior children if necessary)

Hair bands etc should be blue, black or white and functional. They should be functional, eg to tie hair back, and not for decoration. Large hair decorations, jojo bows etc are not acceptable. Hair should be of the child's natural colour, not dyed or coloured. Excessive hair decorations, nail varnish, make up and tattoos are also not allowed. Any inappropriate hair decorations will be placed in the going home tray for safekeeping.

Jewellery, apart from an analogue watch and/or one pair of small **stud** earrings, is not to be worn. Children are not allowed to have fit bits, smart watches or other types of watches or any form of wearable technology. **Children will not be allowed to participate in PE if earrings are worn.** Health and safety regulations state that earrings must be removed for all sporting activities. **Please remove your child's earrings at home on PE days if they are unable to remove them themselves, and ensure that any ear piercing is carried out in the summer holidays only.** Children with long hair should have this tied back on PE days and will not be allowed to participate if it is not tied back. This is for boys and girls!

If your child is having their ears pierced in the Summer holidays, please do this in the first week as they cannot wear earrings for PE.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children are wearing the correct uniform. It is much appreciated.

Reports

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their comments on their child's report and year in school. We appreciate the feedback and are pleased to see it is overwhelmingly positive. The teachers will receive a copy of every comment for children in their class next week.

If you have a concern or comment that needs a response, please do so the teachers directly as they can then respond.

Thankyou.

School Lunch Money

Thank you to Junior parents who have been working hard to ensure all lunch money is paid in advance as it should be. Please ensure your child's account is up to date by next Wednesday and there are no outstanding arrears as this goes directly to the lunch company.

Year 3 children and any new children joining us in September are not able to be set up on the SchoolMoney system for the first week. Your child can still have a meal and we will explain how to pay when we come back in September.

Gifts

Whilst we never expect gifts from families, many have asked if they can send in a token of appreciation for their child's teacher or staff in school. If you wish to do so, please send them in by this Friday so there is time to quarantine them and take them home.

COVID Update

As explained in the email earlier this week, we will be retaining some COVID measures in school. COVID will still be with us and from Monday and moving forwards in September, we need to continue to do all we can to protect our children, families and staff and keep our schools open.

Full details will be on our website, but we will still continue with the following after the 19th July:

- Children will be dropped at the gate and come in alone in the mornings. We have found that as well as being a COVID precaution, it means there are no playground disputes before school, no injuries and children are straight in and settled. It also means a swifter drop off for parents and carers. Gates from Monday open between 8.40 and 8.55.
- Please continue to wear a mask on your way to and from school unless exempt.
- Adults collecting children should still wear a face mask on drop off and pick up to protect our community unless they are exempt.
- Children will be collected in the same way as they are now, from their queue lines and leaving through an exit walkway. Please note the INFANT collection is changing slightly so parents all line up facing the reception classrooms from MONDAY 19th July. A diagram will be shared with you!
- Children should still bring in a hand sanitiser and we will maintain hand washing in school.
- Children bringing a water bottle daily as water fountains remain closed.
- No pencil cases or items from home to be brought in. We have new packs of equipment already made up and ready for each child in September.
- Only one SMALL bag with essential items in it.
- A hard plastic lunch box that can be cleaned in hot water daily.

Contact Details

Can we please remind you to keep your contact information updated so we can contact someone in case of an emergency or query. It prevents any delays and also means that office staff do not try all numbers and find many are no longer valid. Thankyou

Year 6 leavers' hoodies

If your child has ordered a leavers' hoodie they may wear this OR their school uniform for the rest of their time here. We hope they enjoy their last few days with us and their transition days at High School too.

There will be one more newsletter before the end of term with a round up of the term and they year. The website will be updated with new September information so please do check it before we return in September.