



Newsletter

September 2024

Welcome back

We hope that you have all had a wonderful, restful summer. Over the last couple of days, your children have been getting to grips with some new aspects of school life which we would also like to share with you.



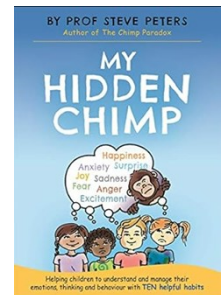
Transition

We are working hard on making our transitions into school, the class and in and out of lunch and playtime more supportive and efficient. They have been practicing lining up in a specific order in case there were ever a fire drill, moving from class to class and moving around the school safely and respectfully.

Behaviour

Our school value this term is 'Respect' and this links in nicely with the changes we have made to our positive 'Behaviour for learning policy'. We have been listening to children and parents and working closely with Reach2 to enhance our behaviour expectations. We introduced a new 'Behaviour Curriculum' which has been shared with all children and staff in assembly and in class. A copy can be found on our school website under the heading 'Wellbeing and Safety' on the 'behaviour' page.

The updated behaviour sequence and rewards/consequence system is based on the book 'My Hidden Chimp' written by Professor Steve Peters. It focuses on Ten Helpful Habits, which help children to understand and manage their emotions, thinking and behaviour. We feel that this links with our already strong wellbeing ethos and culture in school. It also provides a breakdown of different ways to understand why children have different feelings and emotions and provides them with tools to manage these.



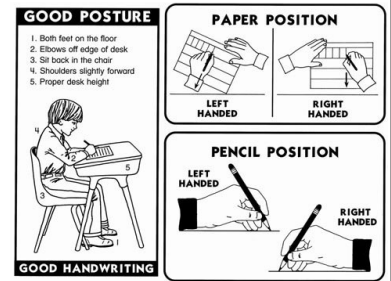
Consequences

Previously a child who received a 'reflection form' would also miss out on an aspect of the whole school half term treat. Now, a reflection form is used as a helpful opportunity for a child to work with an adult to understand certain emotions and difficult situations they may have found themselves in. This is hopefully to support the child to make positive changes and manage their 'hidden chimp' to make better choices. By doing this, children will avoid any further consequences. Whilst further consequences will still be in place, such as missing their treat, working internally with member of the SLT or on occasion remaining after school, these will only happen if negative behaviour continues and senior staff members need to be involved. We hope that this doesn't happen.



Handwriting and Presentation

We will be having a big focus on this as it links to our new behaviour curriculum. We feel that it is important to have the highest expectations for ourselves and others. Every morning, children will practise their handwriting, starting with letter formation basics including posture and pencil grip. So make sure they are at school as soon as the doors open, the more practise the better! This also links to our school uniform and the expectation that all children adhere to the agreements made. All children will be reminded by staff should their uniform not be in line with our policy. In addition to this, any children without the correct PE kit will come home with a reminder letter. By following these, it shows that everyone is ready to learn and show they are part of our Aqueduct community.



Maths workbooks



We have been following the White Rose Maths curriculum programme for some time now, but this year we are trialling using their workbooks. These will be available for you to see at the 'Meet the teacher' session or autumn term parental consultation.

Curriculum subject floor books

Last year we started trialling a class 'floor' book to capture the evidence of learning in a few subjects, instead of individual books. This year we will be using these for Art, Music, Personal Development and Citizenship, Design & Technology, Computing, Religious Education and Modern Foreign Languages (French) in KS2. Again, these will be on show during the parental consultations.

Timings

There has been a slight change to the timings of lunch. KS1 now have their lunch between 12 and 1 and KS2 have theirs between 12:15 and 1:15. All children will continue to have their morning break between 10:45 and 11am. School start and finish times remain unchanged.

Reading at home

We still encourage you to read daily with your child at home. There is a noticeable difference to the progress a child makes when they are reading more often. A child can read to themselves or someone in their household as there is no expectation that parents write a comment if they don't want to or struggle for time. However, a signature to acknowledge that they have read to themselves or others is always helpful. This year, there will be no 'Extra Play' but ERIC time will consist of Everyone Reading In Class.



Home School Agreement

Your child will come home with a copy of the yearly home school agreement. Please read these through and sign with your child and send them back into school as soon as possible.

Communication

We have many different options for communication. As always a member of staff is on the door in the morning to take messages and the teacher sees the children out at the end of the day. The admin e-mail address is checked daily and messages for individual staff members are passed on.

We would like to kindly ask that you do not expect teachers to be available during the school day or in the morning as they welcome children in to school and begin learning promptly. Can we also remind you that the office staff can only help you with admin related queries and any specific questions about your child or the school day should be directed to the class teacher or through the adult on the door.

As always, we expect and will give in return the highest level of respect. Verbal aggression or threats (including by e-mail) will not be tolerated.

Outdoor learning

Mrs Duppa in class 1 and Miss Biddulph in class 2 both utilise their outdoor areas to enhance the learning provision. Please can we kindly ask that while you and your children are waiting for the doors to open in the morning or at the end of the day, that you do not let any child touch or move the equipment or toys. We understand that this is very tempting, but they have been set up for the lessons in the school day in a specific way. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 20th September @ 3pm - Meet the teacher

Monday 23rd September @ 3:45pm or 5:30pm - Year 6 SATs Parent Meeting

Monday 30th September @ 3:45pm or 5:30pm - Year 4 Multiplication Check Parent Meeting

Wednesday 9th October - Pro Strike Football Fundraising Day

Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November - HALF TERM

Monday 11th - Friday 15th November - Parental Consultations

Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January - Christmas Holidays

Monday 6th January 2025 - PD Day (School closed to pupils)



In many ways, effective communication begins with mutual respect that inspires and encourages others to do their best.

- Zig Ziglar