

4<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Dear parent/carer,

## End of Term Arrangements

I write to confirm arrangements for the end of term.

Term finishes on **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> July**. Students will be **dismissed at 14.00hrs** following a whole school assembly so please expect your son/daughter to be arriving home early. The new term begins on **Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September at 08.45hrs for all students**.

As we approach the end of term may I remind you of some key information that will shape and tighten up how we do things next year?

### School day timings

From 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018, we will begin our revised school day with amended timings as detailed in the letter sent home in February.

As a reminder, the school day from September will look like this:-

#### Time

8.45am	Warning bell
8.50 - 9.05am	Registration/assembly
9.05 - 10.05am	Period 1
10.05 - 10.20am	Break
10.20 - 11.20am	Period 2
11.20 - 11.25am	Movement time
11.25 - 12.25pm	Period 3
12.25 - 1.05pm	Lunch (1pm Warning bell)
1.05 - 2.05pm	Period 4
2.05 - 2.10pm	Movement time
2.10 - 3.10pm	Period 5

#### Uniform

Part of our "tightening up" will be focused on uniform. One of the most apparent ways for students to demonstrate pride in their school and being ready to learn is through the correct uniform. Therefore, I am making a formal request to all parents to ensure that your child returns to school in September in the correct uniform. Shoes will need to be formal shoes (no Converse, Reebok or others!), skirts will need to be the appropriate length and style and trousers will need to be as described in our uniform guidance. Parental support plays an incredibly important role in allowing us to focus on the key issues of teaching and learning rather than being side tracked by discussions over uniform.

Thank you once again to the many families who have supported us to maintain the highest standards of uniform. We know from feedback that parents and carers see this as an important aspect of the school, as does our local community.

### **Mobile Phones**

You may be aware of the recent debate in France, resulting in French MPs backing a ban on mobile phone use in schools. Under the new measures, children up to the age of 15 will have to keep their mobile phones out of sight while on school premises. This removes the matter from the discretion of Headteachers, which is currently the case here. Matt Hancock, a minister in this government, has suggested that schools ban the use of mobile phones by their pupils. Amanda Spielman, the Head of Ofsted, agrees.

In our recent parental survey, 77% of parents/carers said that their child does needs to bring a mobile phone to school. In comments received, a significant number of parents/carers did, though, recognise that this can cause issues for school staff and could be a significant factor with regard to bullying and issues being brought from outside of school, into our community. From experience we agree! Unfortunately, we have still found that some students are using their mobile phone to communicate directly with parents/carers during the school day, sometimes creating a heightened sense of anxiety or decision making where the school was unaware and could not take action to address a situation.

Our stance is quite clear and has been shared with students through assemblies and by letter and The Link with Parents/Carers:

Students are not permitted to use phones/electronic equipment at break or lunchtimes or to have them out for any reason during the day.

As a rural school we accept that there may be particular circumstances in which a parent wishes their child to have a mobile phone for their journey to and from school. However, where there may be the need for a student to contact home or vice versa, mobile phones should not be used. This does not help school staff to address any situations and can present a clear safeguarding risk. If an issue arises during the course of the day then we would ask that the student go to Reception from where a phone call can be made. You can of course contact Reception with an urgent message which will be relayed to your son / daughter.

We ask that you discuss the content of this letter with your son/daughter so that upon return to school in September, we are having the right conversations about the right things and not being distracted by matters which create barriers.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support this year and wish you and your family a peaceful and relaxing holiday.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J Parr  
Headteacher