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Headteacher Mrs Ashley Crittenden BEd Hons NPQH 7th September 2021

Welcome, Update and Reminder from Mrs Crittenden

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the Autumn Term! We're so proud of how well your children have settled into the new term. I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families who've joined us this term: in the Nursery, Year R and throughout the school.

Now we've had a few days to settle back into the routine of school life, I thought I'd take the opportunity to update you on a few things, as well as share a few reminders.

Coronavirus Update

- While many of the previous Covid measures across the country have been relaxed, we are still following the latest <u>DFE guidance</u>. This includes regular handwashing and cleaning, good ventilation in the classrooms and reducing unnecessary mixing of year groups.
- If you suspect that your child may be showing symptoms of Covid, please do not send them to school.
- They will need to take a PCR test. Please note, that this is **not** a Lateral Flow test that can be done at home.
- Please contact the school office to make us aware as soon as possible and send a copy of their result to <u>office@west-borough.kent.sch.uk</u>
- Currently no children under 18 years and 6 months need to isolate even if they are a close contact of someone who tests positive for the virus. This means other siblings in your household can still attend school.
- We will inform you if your child is identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive in school. This is so that you can observe your child in case they develop symptoms. If they develop symptoms at school we will contact you to collect them and ask you to book them a PCR test.
- Remote learning will continue to be provided to any child who is at home due to having Covid symptoms or has tested positive.

Reminders

- The children from Year I-6 will have PE twice a week and should come to school in their PE kits on those days (a ParentMail has been sent about this)
- The gates will lock promptly at 8.50am in the mornings. Should you be late for any reason, you must sign your child in at the school office
- As previously stated, we are keeping the one way system in place at collection at the end of the day. This means parents must not leave the school site via the Cherry Orchard Way alley. *Please exit via the main entrance*. Only pupils in Year 5 and 6 who have permission to walk home without an adult will use the Cherry Orchard exit
- The **drop-off zone** at the top of the car park is for **disabled drivers and taxis only** this is at the start and end of the day. It is too dangerous for any other vehicles to use this as it's a pedestrian exit currently. Thank you.
- Communication between school and home is very important to us. Your child's teacher will once again be using Class Dojo to send messages home and update you with what the class have been learning. To avoid any confusion, we've created a handy tips sheet so you know how to communicate what and it's attached to this email.

I'm very hopeful that this school year will bring some normality and that we may be able to experience many of the things we enjoy most about school life – trips, performances, clubs etc! Here's to a great 2021/22.

Kind regards Mrs Crittenden Headteacher