Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to Term 1 of 2026-27! I do hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable summer and that everyone is ready for a new start. We are really looking forward to seeing the children on Monday and getting them settled back into school routines and their new classes.

There have been various improvements happening over the summer holiday, most obviously, the new playground markings, which have really brightened up the tarmac, and I know the children will love exploring all the new activities. The running track is back! Please remember that this is the only area where children are allowed to run before and after school in order to keep everyone safe, especially toddlers and younger children who will be easily knocked over. As always, the trim trail is not to be used at all before and after school, including younger siblings, please.

The weather is looking very changeable over the coming weeks so please ensure that your child wears a (**named**) coat to school, as we do try to get the children out to play as much as possible, whatever the weather. Please, please ensure that your child's jumper/cardigan is clearly named, as we don't want to have piles of lost property building up again. A named item can be returned immediately to your child. Please also ensure that your child brings a named water bottle every day so they can keep hydrated throughout the day.

Jewellery and watches: children should not wear any jewellery other than small stud earrings, if they have pierced ears. No hooped or dangly earrings, please, for safety reasons. Children may wear a watch, but no smart watches, please.

Speaking of uniform, we have loads of **free** uniform in the swap shop by the school office. Please do help yourself as we have been inundated with donations (thank you!) but have now run out of storage space and cannot accept any more donations for the time-being.

In school, we will be reminding the children about our school promise to be '**Ready, Respectful and Safe**' and about using our values to be the best people we can be. It would be super-helpful to talk to your child about these at home, as this shows that everyone is working together as a team to help them grow into great human beings. Thank you!

With the children moving classes, here is information about drop-off and collection routines:

Year 1: children line up by the picket fence near The Keep in the morning, where Mrs Corbett will greet them, and will be individually released by Mrs Corbett from their classroom door (nearest to the Keep) at the end of the day.

Year 2: children line up next to the black benches outside their classroom in the mornings, where Mrs Dinham will collect them and walk them all into the cloakroom to hang up their coats before greeting them at the classroom door. At the end of the day, they will line up along the wall next to their classroom as Mrs Dinham releases them individually to you.

Year 3: children use the blue door next to the carpark. This will be opened by Mrs Dixon at 8:45am and the children enter the building independently, hang up their coats and bags and then are greeted by Mrs Jewell as they enter the classroom. They are released individually from the same door at the end of the day.

Year 4: children enter school in the same way as last year, but at the end of the day, Miss Northcott of Mr Evans will bring them out to the playground via the Art Room door and will release them individually to you from there.

Year 5: children enter the school via the Art Room door, which will be opened by me or Mrs Rolfe at 8:45am and they will be greeted my Mr Mann at the classroom door, once they have hung up their coat and bag in the cloakroom. At the end of the day, Mr Mann will bring the class out to the playground and release them individually to you.

Year 6: children enter the school via the Art Room door, which will be opened by me or Mrs Rolfe at 8:45am and they will be greeted my Mr Weeks at the classroom door. At the end of the day, Mrs Rolfe will bring the class out to the playground and release them individually to you.

Children should be in their classrooms and ready for their first learning activity **by 8:50am**. The doors and gates will be **closed at 8:50am**, so if you arrive after this, you will have to bring your child to the school office.

The staff have all been back in school for the last two days doing training, planning and generally getting ready for the next school year. The entire staff have received training on allergy and anaphylaxis awareness in line with government guidance. If your child has an allergy, you should have already met with a member of the team to complete a Care Plan for your child, as is our normal practice. If, however, you have not, please make an appointment via the office to do this as soon as possible. Our new catering provider will provide menus specifically for your child to ensure they are offered a wide range of options for their lunch. We will get these out to you as soon as possible.

Here at College Road, we all love food, so we are very excited to enjoy the new lunch offer from Educatering; it has been fantastic working with them to plan menus that are bespoke to our school. Once they are fully up and running, we hope to offer you tasters after school on a regular basis. I will keep you posted.

Have a fantastic weekend, everyone and we will see you bright and early on Monday morning!

Best wishes,

Mrs Francis