



PARK WOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION

HEADTEACHERS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017

Welcome to all our families, to the start of a new and exciting academic year. We very much hope you all had an enjoyable summer break and that your children are ready and raring to go with their learning.

A particular welcome to our new Foundation Stage children as they begin their first steps in school and as part of our Park Wood school community.

NEW ROOF, YEAR 2 AND ORGANISATION AT THE START AND END OF THE DAY

As I'm sure parents will not have failed to notice, we are having the next part of the school roof fixed. This is carried out by and organised by Medway council and the school has no say in the timing of this, which is arranged as and when it can be done. Therefore, some of the work is to be completed in term time as it was in other parts of the school last year. Not ideal, but the roof is in need of repair.

As a result of this, Year 2 will be coming into school and leaving school through the main entrance, where the schools join. Year 2 teachers will be waiting in the join at the start of each school day in order to line up their classes and at the end of the day. Also, as the Year 2 children leave five minutes before the older children, they will be exited promptly to their parents, by their teachers, at 3.20. No older children will leave until after the year 2s, so year 2 parents are welcome to wait on the drive way closest to the school.

CAR PARK AND WAITING AREA

My strong view and that of the school, is that children and cars are best kept separate. I also feel that parents need a good, designated area to wait for their children. It is with this in mind that we have taken the decision to keep children and cars in two distinct areas. As staff enter the school site, they will now ONLY be able to park in the area to the left as they drive in, this is the old Junior playground and the area around the trees which leads up to it. Parents and children will all use the drive way and the area to the right of the drive way as you walk in, which used to be the infant staff car park. This will hopefully mean more space for parents to wait and also no children and cars being in the same area.

Junior children will no longer be able to access the site from the pedestrian gate near the car park and will need to walk up to the main entrance as the lower gate will be closed. As the year goes on, we hope to develop the waiting area to be a more attractive area for parents to meet their children.

As a reminder the school operates a no movement policy on site for cars between 8.30 - 9.15 or between 3.10 - 3.45, in order to keep the children safe. Parents are not permitted to park on site at any time unless prior permission has been arranged.

In addition, parents using the sunshine club, should not be driving on to site after 8am or before 5pm.

POWER OF READING AND FREE READING FRIDAYS

Parents and children need to be aware that the school will be fully embracing the Power of Reading approach to learning during the school year. Full immersion in key texts and a really positive celebration of reading and authors, is going to be a key focus for the school. Mrs Pigott and the Literacy team will be at the heart of this big push to raise interest in reading.

Friday afternoons will be a chance for children of all ages to approach reading and their key texts in a really enjoyable, creative and productive way. Drama, creative writing, cross curricular practical work, Character studies, illustration, art work, book clubs, reading cafes, library visits, visiting authors, sponsored reads and film making are amongst the many ways we will be encouraging a deep understanding of key texts.

Children will no longer be asked to wear their own clothes on Friday, as the work they will be completing will not require this. This also applies to staff. So **all children will be expected to attend school on Fridays in school uniform**, as they would on any other day.

Our aim is to give the children the first two Fridays to get used to their new classes and to settle in, and then to bring the power of reading into Friday afternoons from the third week.

POLITENESS, MANNERS, PLEASES AND THANK YOUS

We are going to be having a big push at the start of the school year on politeness and manners. We want all the children in the school to follow our 'Super 7' rules and we want all our children to be well mannered, kind and polite. We will be encouraging our children to say 'please' and 'thank you', to hold doors for other people, to look after their property and that of others and to show respect for their school, their learning and for themselves. This includes using polite language. I would ask all parents, as I'm sure you always do, to support us and your children in this and to encourage this throughout the children's days.

THE SUPER 7 RULES ARE LISTED BELOW

AT PARK WOOD WE ALL TRY OUR HARDEST TO DO OUR BEST AND LEARN AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY
AT PARK WOOD WE SEE THE BEST IN EACH OTHER AND RESPECT EACH OTHER AS INDIVIDUALS
AT PARK WOOD WE LOOK AFTER OUR SCHOOLS. WE RESPECT OUR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
AT PARK WOOD WE ARE POLITE, WELL MANNERED AND MOVE AROUND THE SCHOOL SAFELY
AT PARK WOOD WE ARE KIND TO EACH OTHER AND WE DO NOT HURT PEOPLE WITH ACTIONS OR WORDS
AT PARK WOOD WE LISTEN TO OTHERS AND RESPECT THEIR POINT OF VIEW
AT PARK WOOD WE ARE PROUD OF OURSELVES AND PROUD TO BE PART OF THE SCHOOL

PPA

Teachers get a day every fortnight as planning, preparation and assessment time. This day is planned by the teachers and organised as any other day, but lessons will be delivered by Higher Level Teaching Assistants. This is consistent with schools across the country.

GOOD LUCK MRS GETTING!

We would like to say a big thank you and a 'good luck' to Mrs Getting as she and her husband prepare for their first baby. Mrs Getting leaves at the end of the week and we wish her and her new family health and happiness at this exciting time.

YEAR LEADERS

It is often useful for parents to know who the year leaders are, if they have a concern or question relating to their children, which may not be to do with their learning in class or things specific to that group of children. Often an appointment with a year leader can help. The year leaders this year are:-

Foundation Stage: Miss Sage Year 1: Mr Davis Year 2: Mrs Randall
Year 3: Miss Gartrell Year 4: Miss Lloyd Year 5: Miss Cook Year 6: Mrs McCormack

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Could I ask that we hit the ground running and all children are looking smart and ready for school, in full school uniform with appropriate foot wear. Please ensure all your children's uniform etc., are named clearly.

REMINDER

We are a nut free school. Please make sure your children do not bring any nut products in to school, as we have a number of children with severe allergies.

DIARY DATES INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL

6 Sept	Term 1 Children back to School
19 Sept	Medway Tests
20 Sept	Medway Tests
12 Oct	Isle of Wight meeting for Parents – Letter will be sent home nearer the time
17 Oct	Individual Photographs – Whole School
18 Oct	Individual Photographs – Whole School
20 Oct	Last Day of Term

**Mr A Moir
Headteacher**

