



Reaching for the Stars !

October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers ,

I would like to share some important information and observations with you now that we have been back in school for a few weeks.

COVID has not gone away ! - Already we have had several members of staff suffering from new strains of this virus so we will continue to avoid large groups gathering in unventilated rooms etc.

Energy Costs - These have increased by 5 times since last year and there will be huge implications for everyone. Our heating will be turned down so please ask your child to wear a vest or T shirt if they feel the cold easily (not all children or adults do as we have different personal body temperatures). There will be fewer evening events held at school to conserve energy - heating and lighting.

Parents' Evening - A letter will be going out on Monday 10th October to invite parents to book their consultation slot with their child's teacher. This is another measure in response to the energy crisis and Covid. We will use the platform ' School Cloud to help us deliver these important conversations.

School Travel Plan - We are currently reviewing our plan and one of the things we are trying to do is to encourage as many pupils as possible to walk to school even if it is only for one day per week as this will have a great benefit to the overall impact of reducing traffic on our roads. There is also the added incentive to use less fuel getting your children to school and saving money on petrol prices.

Y6 and Y5s will be given the opportunity to learn how to be safe on the roads while riding a bike through the ' Bikeability scheme' - a number of Y6s have already completed the course with the remainder doing it after half term..

Traffic Concerns and Observations - A small number of parents are continuing to put their children at risk and compromising the safety of others by parking dangerously on the roads outside of school and across neighbours' driveways - They know who they are and they know that they should not be doing it. Traffic Wardens and Community Liaison officers will be alerted if this continues. All of our pupils will be encouraged to use the proper school crossing so please do not ask your children to cross the road in between cars or on the bend of a road .

Seesaw - Please note that this resource will be used by staff to contact parents and share significant/important events or moments that have taken place at school. It is not meant to give 24/7 access to our teachers as they need time to plan and prepare lessons or just switch off. Teachers have been issued with guidelines about when and where to use Seesaw and they have been told that nothing should be sent over the weekend. During a working week teachers may make posts up until 6pm while parents and carers should not expect any posts from teachers outside of these specified times..

Parents should not use Seesaw to ask questions of teachers but only to share significant important information that needs to be shared before the next day. All questions related to school life should be channelled through the school office and admin staff. Seesaw was a really good tool during Covid restrictions but as we have all the children back in school every day it is no longer necessary to be constantly updating parents on every little thing that might or might not take place during the school day concerning their child.

School Residential Visits - It has been our tradition every year to take our Y5 children to Grasmere and our Y6 pupils Robinwood Activity Centre (currently near Wrexham) for a three day and two night residential trip. The Y5 trip will go ahead as planned in 26th -28th April 2023 (at a cost of £130 approximately).

All parents and Carers need to decide whether we continue with the Robinwood Trip as this is very expensive and school can no longer subsidise this particular trip so parents and carers will have to pay the full cost of £350 approximately. If you want School to source a cheaper alternative (there are some available for around £250 for the same period away) then please make your views known by following the link

<https://forms.gle/rwYVwd8qc5HHWRVL9>

and completing the survey by 21st

October.

Important dates for your diary ...

12th - Harvest Festival for KS2 led by Y3 at 2.30pm

13th - Harvest Festival for KS1 led by Y1 at 9.15am

20th October - School Photographer in school for individual photographs (winter uniform)
(For siblings attending DPS from 8.30am in the Infant Hall)

20th October - PTA Disco for Y5 and Y6 from 3.30pm to 5pm.

31st October - IntraHealth Flu vaccinations.

8th December - Christmas dinner day for all who order one.

Yours sincerely

Mr. McDowell Miss. Brookes

Headteachers

