



# Pentland Infant and Nursery School Newsletter

October 2020

It has been wonderful to see the children return to school; it is so lovely to hear children's voices back in school! They have all settled so well and have adapted to the new ways of working. Teachers have been busy carrying out assessments, so that teaching can be provided at just the right level for each child. We are thoroughly enjoying helping them to continue their learning journeys and sharing all their successes with them.



## Safety First

Everything we do in school has the safety of our children and school community at the heart of it. An immense amount of planning and risk assessing has gone into the re-opening of school. We have had to change and adapt lots of the school day. Just a few examples:

Children are kept in their class bubbles and do not mix with any other class at lunchtime or playtimes.

Handwashing is carried out frequently.

There is no sharing of resources between bubbles and children have their own stationary.

Staff are cleaning classrooms and toilets throughout the day.

Staff have allocated staffrooms, to avoid mixing staff from different bubbles.

## How YOU can help:



Please wear a face mask in the school grounds. Staff are trying not to wear them so children can see our faces, but we need to protect staff too. If parents wear a face mask it reduces the risk of transmission of the virus.



Please use the one way system around the driveway. The start and finish times have been staggered to reduce the flow of people on the site at any one time. The one way system helps the movement of people and again reduces the transmission of the virus.

If anybody in your household is showing any one of the symptoms of Covid 19 (Coronavirus), please keep children at home to self-isolate with the family and arrange a test for the person showing symptoms. It is essential that you call school to tell us of the situation.



## Packed Lunches

We are seeing a number of children bring packed lunches to school; this is an added risk to everyone in school. Every child from Reception class upwards is entitled to a school meal without charge.

There are always two options per day for the children to choose from. These meals are cooked in the school kitchen and are warm and nutritionally balanced. Please allow your child to have a school meal rather than a packed lunch. We are having to separate children to sit on their own table, away from friends, if they bring a packed lunch bag, to avoid any possible contamination.

If you do send any food into school, it is **ESSENTIAL THAT NO NUT PRODUCTS ARE INCLUDED**. We have children in school with serious nut allergies. This includes food products that include nuts, such as Nutella.





## Dates for your Diary

### Food Bank Collections



To tie in with the children learning about Harvest Festival, we are once again running our Food Bank appeal for Fusion Housing Foodbank. This year, in particular, there are more needy families relying on the help of Food Banks than ever before. We will be teaching the children about empathy, caring and respect for all and how we have a social responsibility to help care for those less fortunate than themselves.

We will be launching our appeal in class assemblies on Wednesday 14th October. If families are in a position to make a donation and wish to do so, then please send in any items of dry or tinned food or toiletries by Thursday 22nd October. Please place your items in a carrier bag in the box provided on the driveway. We will then be quarantining all donations for 72 hours before touching them.

### Parent Consultation Evening



We will need to run our Parent's evening a little differently this year, due to the current restrictions of visitors into school and the need to maintain safety for all—staff and families. Therefore, we will be dedicating the evenings of **Wednesday 11th November and Wednesday 18th November (from 3.30pm—5.30pm)** to making phone calls to parents to discuss your child's learning.

This is not a decision we take lightly, because we value our face to face contact with parents very much.

Appointments will be offered in the first week of the new half term and parents will be able to sign up for a time for a phone call via our School Website App. More information will follow nearer the time.

### Upcoming Holidays and Training Days

School closes for a one week holiday on **Friday 23rd October** and opens again on **Monday 2nd November 2020**.

**Christmas Holidays: Monday 21st Dec to Tuesday 5th January**

**Inset Days this coming year: (school closed to children)**

**Monday 4th January**

**Friday 28th May**

**Monday 26th July**

### Class Names this Year

We have decided to call each class after a herb, as we will be doing lots of growing and planting later in the year.

**Pre-School: Dill Class**

**Morning Nursery: Nettle Class**

**Afternoon Nursery: Chive Class**

**30 Hour Provision: Parsley Class**

**Reception: Oregano Class**

**Reception/Year One: Coriander Class (Mrs Barker)**

**Year One: Basil Class (Mrs Rushby/Mrs De'Ath)**

**Year Two: Peppermint Class (Miss Akhtar)**

**Year Two: Lavender Class (Miss Child)**



### Attendance



Thank you for working with us on maintaining good attendance. We have adapted our Attendance Policy to reflect the current Covid 19 situation; however, if children are well they need to be in school every day.

Please see the Attendance Policy on the website.

Please also remember that it is very important to call or email school first thing in the morning if your child is going to be absent for any reason.

As part of our safeguarding duties, we will always follow up an unexplained absence by text and/or phone call and if we remain concerned by lack of contact may ask the police to conduct a welfare visit.