



Autumn Term Newsletter No.1 (6.9.19)

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year. I hope you've all had a lovely summer. Staff have had a good break. We've recharged our batteries and are looking forward to working with you and your children again.

On Monday and Tuesday, teachers and teaching assistants worked together to agree our policy and approach to teaching, learning and assessment in the year ahead. We enjoyed this professional focus on our core job. On Tuesday we were joined by the rest of the school staff to look at how we best meet the emotional needs and safety of all the children in our care. This was a very useful refresher on attachment that compliments our efforts to constantly improve the quality of the education we provide. In our staff training on Thursday after school we continued this work when we welcomed trainers who are teaching us how to implement a new scheme of work for PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Emotional) education called *Jigsaw*. I expect you will hear more about this from your children in the coming weeks as it looks very engaging and will help your child manage their emotions, build their confidence, develop positive relationships, and understand more about themselves and the world around them.

Thank you for your support with school uniform. All the children arrived on Wednesday looking very smart and uniform. There were a few nerves about starting in new classes but this quickly turned to excitement by the end of the week. In our first assembly we looked at how 'change' can be quite scary, and how we can overcome our nerves by talking about it, cooperating with others and finally by celebrating the excitement of something new.

While you've been away, teachers and staff have been thinking about their learning environments over the summer. A part of this has been about decluttering and we would value your support in helping us keep shared areas clean and tidy. With shared space so limited, especially in the Key Stage 1 block, you can help us by keeping your child's bag size to the bare minimum possible. Ideally just a draw string bag would be ideal although we understand that this might not always be practical or you might already have bought a larger rucksack that they need when walking home. If, however, you can give this some thought it would be much appreciated. Children only really need to bring a coat, PE bag, book bag and a packed lunch if they are having one. Thank you for your help.

On the topic of school lunches, you can now choose to order a school packed lunch as another option which might help you save some time at home. A lunch now costs £2.40.

Some news from before the summer: thanks to the leadership of Mr Mayling, we achieved the Gold Marks Award for our sporting provision in 2018-2019. This is a significant achievement that recognises the wide range of sporting opportunities we provide, our success in competitions and the overall high standard of our provision. If you are interested in finding out more about how we spend the money allocated in our sports premium grant and to see the standards we achieved in swimming, [follow this link](#). You can find the dates and times your children are [swimming](#) this academic year on our website.

Thank you to Miss Pritchard who has put together guidance on how you can best support your child with handwriting at home. Follow this link to our [parent partnership page](#) for a good read.

Finally, Torbay Education Safeguarding Service (TESS) would like to update you with how they share information when working closely with Social Care and other partners such as the police and health, to support pupils with additional needs. You can find the letter at the bottom of our safeguarding page by clicking [here](#).

Have a lovely weekend. See you all for a full week on Monday.