

### First message of 2023-24 from Mrs Waters!

Dear Parents/Carers,

#### WELCOME BACK!

We hope you all had a lovely summer break and have made lots of great memories to treasure. I am sure many of you are pleased that term has started again so those familiar routines can be embedded. I wonder how many children woke up early during the holidays but then you had to wake them up on the first day to get them ready for school!

We have had a busy summer with lots of exciting work being done in school. You may have spotted the changes in the staff carpark. We are delighted that we received funding to upgrade our electrics and ensure we have a good electrical feed coming into school. If you noticed that Birchtree Avenue was closed for a while, this was due to us! Mr Leggett has been very busy painting our school and doing lots of tidying and sorting for us! We also had a team of staff who came in to help with the big summer tidy up. A big thank you to everyone who has helped to get the school ready for the start of a new year.

Children in Year 1 and 2 have spent the first week focusing on CLASS COMMUNITY. We have explored what it means to be a class family and how we are going to support each other to shine during this year. It has been great to see some fantastic teamwork going on as children build relationships with one another. I know our new EYFS children will be reading the same book this week too.

As always, if you have any queries, please speak to one of us - we are here to help!  
Take good care, keep smiling

*Mrs Waters*

#### Foodbank

Dogsthorpe Infants is an agent for foodbank vouchers. If you are currently going through a difficult financial time and need a food parcel please speak to Mrs Waters, Mrs Hibbert or Mrs Gardner. You can be assured that this will be kept confidential. E-Vouchers are now available so can be sent to you electronically.

If you require a voucher please email Mrs Waters/Mrs Gardner on: [office@dogsthorpeinfants.org.uk](mailto:office@dogsthorpeinfants.org.uk) or click on the link on our school website [www.dogsthorpeinfants.co.uk](http://www.dogsthorpeinfants.co.uk)

#### Cost of Living Crisis Support

Under the 'Parents' tab on our school website there is further information on financial support available to families along with some money saving ideas, including online food at reduced prices. If you know of any further websites/money saving tips or advice that may be of benefit to our families, please email the details to the address above and we will add to the list.

#### If you need help...

If you have any questions/concerns regarding your child's learning, then please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Don't forget our **Admin Staff** are always ready and willing to help you with any general school questions you may have:

**Mrs Gardner**, Administration Manager and PA to the Headteacher

**Mrs Marriott & Mrs Streeter**, Administration Assistants (however Mrs Streeter will very shortly be going on Maternity Leave!)

We also have our **Rainbow Team**:  
Mrs Hibbert - Family Well-being Champion  
Mrs Creasey - Child Well-being Champion

**If you need support with anything, please ask us and we will do our very best to help!**

#### PE Reminder - EARRINGS.

The Association of Physical Education (2020) strongly recommends that the removal of personal items before every PE lesson (this includes our sports clubs). This is to ensure children can actively participate without endangering themselves or those around them. **This applies to all earrings including retainer earrings. We do not allow earrings to be covered by plasters.**

Therefore, if your child has their ears pierced, please ensure that earrings are taken out before school on the days that the class has PE (school staff are not permitted to remove them). This will enable your child to be fully active in our PE Curriculum and to develop the key skills taught by teaching staff and sports coaches safely.

**For children who choose to wear earrings to school, these should be small studs and not hoops, for health & safety reasons.**

### Cycles/Scooters/Gates

We are happy for child to come to school on bikes & scooters. However, you need to ensure these are left securely i.e. locked with a padlock in our cycle storage. **We do not accept any responsibility for loss or damage.** Our cycle shed should only be used by INFANT school children.

Bikes and scooters should NOT be ridden on school premises, and we respectfully ask that you dismount before entering the gates. **Reminder that the gate between us and the Academy is now locked at 8.45am.**

### Parental Engagement Opportunities/Diary Dates - Autumn 1

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September** - Tempest Photography will be in school to take the children's photographs.

#### EYFS Phonics Workshop for parents/carers

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September - 9.00am - 10.00am**

Come and find out how we teach children to read using our Monster Phonics scheme. This will include time in the classroom for parents to experience a Phonics Session. A separate letter with full details will follow shortly.

**Book Buzz Sessions** - Come and spend 15 minutes in the classroom reading/sharing a book with your child. Younger siblings are welcome to join in too.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 8.45am - 9.00am**

**Year 1 Classes**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October - 8.45am - 9.00am**

**EYFS Classes**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October - 8.45am - 9.00am**

**Year 2 Classes**

**Child Flu Vaccinations by Vaccination UK - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October.** Parents can opt for their child to be given the flu vaccination in school. Consent forms will be sent out shortly.

#### Parent Consultation Evenings, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 4.00- 6.30pm

This is an opportunity for you to discuss your child's learning & progress with the class teacher. The appointment will be online via Schoolcloud. Further details to follow.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October** - school will close at 3.15pm for the October half-term holiday.

### New Student Database (Bromcom)

Over the holidays our student data has transferred to a new database called Bromcom. This is to bring us in line with our other Trust schools. As you can appreciate, the Admin team have had limited time to learn the new system and the reports it produces. Therefore, if classroom staff explain that one of your contacts is not now showing on your child's records and asks you to go to the office, please be kind and patient while we check and resolve the issue.

**This system is to safeguard your child from going home with the wrong person!**

### Get Reading!

Enjoying a book together is very important for every child and family! We want every child in our school to enjoy reading which is why we send reading books and reading records home. But reading doesn't always involve a book. It might be following a recipe to cook something together, following instructions (even to make a paper aeroplane), reading a road sign, a comic or a book from the library.

At Dogsthorpe Infants, we really want to bring the enjoyment of reading back to the children, so if your child doesn't want to read their school reading book but has happily read one of their own books with you or a comic please write the date, what they have read and sign your name in the reading record. Any reading they have done is perfect to write down for us!

Reading should be enjoyable for everyone! Even the parents listening and helping...

We would really like you to write in their reading record at least 3 times a week...5 times would be **AMAZING!**

