

5th September, 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break. It was really lovely seeing the children back in school on Monday, all of them looking so smart, happy and ready to learn.

Pumps:

As you can see, we have had some minor works done during the holiday and our academy is looking fresh and welcoming. The new carpet has made a huge difference to the corridors and we want to keep it clean; just another reminder that all children need black pumps to wear when they are in the building! We also want them to arrive in school in their black school shoes (or appropriate boots in the bad weather). We are encouraging the children to dress smartly for school, both for inside and outside. Trainers are not part of the school uniform.

Contact details:

At the start of the new school year, it is imperative that we have tight safeguarding procedures and part of these include having the correct children's contact details. There have been three recent cases, one in Calderdale, that have come to the attention of the Schools Safeguarding Advisor in Calderdale and the Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) which highlight the need for more robust emergency contacts and first-day calling procedures. I have included a summary of these cases below, so you can see just how important this is:

- *A mum died from an epileptic fit while bathing her children age 3 and 4. The next morning the school phoned home immediately after checking registers, no answer and so continued ringing through the contact list until they had an answer. A family member went straight to the house and found mum had died, but the children were safe.*
- *A dad died from natural causes, Mum was working away from home, and the children were 2 and 4. In the morning Mum rang dad, no answer, but assumed he was doing the school run and continued with her working day. The school noted the absence of the 4 year old. They started first day calling 2 hours after registration and rang dad only, leaving a message. They did not ring anyone else on the contact list. They repeated the call to Dad at 3.40. Mum rang home at the end of her working day and now worried rang another school mum. Grandmother went to the home and could not gain access because of a key in the lock inside. The police gained entry at 8pm; the children had been alone with their deceased Dad all day.*
- *A mum died. School made a call to her when the child was not at school; the contact list was not used. No further calls were made. A letter was sent to the parent 3 days later. Eventually the house was entered 5 days later. The child, age 6 or 7 had also died. The child was non-verbal and had SEN.*

In the envelope attached are our new contact forms. Please complete relevant parts fully and return to school by Friday 15th September. If you need clarification about any part of the forms, please contact us.

Homework:

We will continue to send out homework every Friday. Some of this homework will be on-line maths learning. If you do not have access to the internet, please let your child's teacher know and they will be given access in school. All homework is for completion by the Wednesday after it was set.

Roald Dahl Day:

On Wednesday 13th September, we will be celebrating the life and works of Roald Dahl, by having a Roald Dahl day in school. It will be lovely if your child could come to school dressed a Roald Dahl character that day. Parents are welcome to join us for a special assembly at 9:15.

Enrichment Clubs:

After school clubs will start the week beginning 18th September (the 3rd week back). A full list of clubs will be sent out next week and will also be found on our website.

Reading Volunteers:

Reading is the key to learning and will always be at the centre of our curriculum. If you can spare some time to come and read with our children, please ask in the office for a volunteers application form. Our library is always available for the children to borrow (and return) books and if you would like to visit it after school, please ask at the front office.

Key dates:

Wednesday 6 th September	Y1 trip to The Deep, Hull
Wednesday 13 th September	Roald Dahl day – all day
Monday 18 th September	Enrichment clubs start – after school
Thursday 28 th September	National Poetry Day
Wednesday 11 th October	Parents' Evening - 3pm onwards
Monday 16 th October	Well Being week – all week
Friday 20 th October	Harvest Celebration – 2pm
Friday 20 th October	Break up for half term
Monday 6 th November	All children back in school
Celebration assemblies	Every Friday at 9:05 – all welcome!

On behalf of all the staff at Abbey Park, I would like to thank you for your continued support and we are looking forward to seeing your children continue to flourish this year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. E Ford
Principal