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Head teacher: Mrs Vicky Dangerfield BSc Hons GTP Primary

Monday 4th September

Dear Parents,

The staff team and I hope that you have had a lovely summer holiday. We are really looking forward to seeing you all again and to the term ahead. This letter contains some information about the term and school day generally but we will also keep you up to date with information as the term progresses. In this first week of term you will also receive a housekeeping letter from your class teachers who will outline the termly plan, class schedules, how reading books will be changed and so on.

Term start date

Term begins for all children on Wednesday 6th September. Staff have two inset days today and tomorrow, so if you do need to speak to someone before school starts there will be staff in school to answer the phone, or any queries by email.

School day timings

Children may be dropped at school any time from 8.30 straight into classrooms where class staff will welcome them. The morning register will be taken at 8.45 a.m. This 5 minute earlier adjustment (from 8.50 a.m) is due to schools needing to fulfil the government's new requirement for a 32.5 hour week. Please ensure that your child arrives by 8.45a.m. each day. Pick up time for all children remains 3.15 p.m, unless your child is staying for one of our after school clubs, which run to 4.15 p.m. Breakfast club runs as usual 5 days a week from 8.00 a.m for those needing an earlier drop off (details below).

Breakfast club

Breakfast club is available in the conservatory from 8.00 a.m every day of the week, starting on the first day of term. If you would like to book a place at breakfast club for one or more days then please contact Mrs Powell. The cost for Breakfast club is £2.00 per day. Mrs Powell will invoice you through Parent Pay. Children can attend breakfast club on a regular or an occasional basis, and if you need a place in a hurry and don't have time to contact Mrs Powell then by all means bring your child in.

After school clubs

After school clubs will begin on the first day of term and run every day until 4.15 p.m. This week the clubs are all stay and play, with our themed clubs beginning next week. Please pick up your children promptly. The planned clubs are listed below. Places must be booked with Mrs Powell; we do have a number limit on each club. All clubs other than sewing with Ali Heath are free of charge. Please see Mrs Powell about sewing club.





Monday - Crafty club (activities will vary during the term) - Mrs George and Mrs Curzon

Tuesday - Sports club at school - open to all - Atlas Sports and Mr Dangerfield
Drama Club - Year 3 upwards - Mr Gardner

Wednesday - Spirograph and Stencil club - Miss Bannister

Thursday - Lego and construction club - Mr Dangerfield and Miss Bannister
Sewing club with Ali Heath

(Sewing is a paid for club which children need to attend every week £7.00 per week plus resources, suitable for year 3 upwards)

Friday - Board Games - Miss Fay and Mr Crocker
Year 5 and 6 Mad Hatter's book club - Mr Ringer - we would love as many year 5 and 6 pupils to join this club as possible as we are longstanding members of the Reading Teachers: Reading Pupils county wide group.

Meeting with teachers/school staff

Teachers/staff will be available at the end of the school day should you need a quick chat about anything. Sometimes they can pop out in the morning too if you need to pass anything on first thing, or to help settle your child at the point of transition. Longer meetings in the mornings are more tricky, as class staff need to be available to arriving children. Alternatively, speak with Mrs Powell and she will pass any urgent messages on for you. As usual, parents are unable to come into the school buildings at morning drop off, unless for a pre-arranged meeting but teachers will always make themselves available to come to you if they are free and have another staff member to look after the children in class. If your child is anxious for any reason about coming into the building, just let someone know and we will come to you to help.

Morning Run

Our morning running club is always very popular and we will be continuing that this year. Morning run will take place on Thursday mornings at 8.50 a.m. Children who go running will miss assembly on this day. Mr Ringer and Mr Dangerfield will continue to lead this club. If you are able and willing to be (or continue to be if you helped last year) a parent running helper then please let us know. This club is for year 3 upwards in the first instance. This will begin on Thursday 14th September.

Forest School

Mr Gardner is our qualified Forest School Leader and Forest School will continue fortnightly for all children on Thursdays, starting this coming Thursday with Eagle and Kestrel classes. Eagle and Kestrel classes will continue to go together and will need a packed lunch on this day.

Children in Year 1 upwards will need a packed lunch in a bag they can carry on their Forest School weeks too, as they will be walking up to Ebworth before lunch and eating lunch on arrival. Little Lambs and





Reception will have their Forest School sessions fortnightly on Thursdays, but closer to home and will go up to the main site later in the year. They can have lunch at school as usual. The first session for Merlin Class (Year 1 & 2, Little Lambs and Reception) is in week 2 - September 14th.

Children will be able to order a packed lunch from school on their Forest School day or to bring a packed lunch from home. If you would like to be one of our parent helpers at Forest School then please let us know. There are some days when we have needed to alter the Forest School day, please keep an eye on the diary dates in the newsletter. Many thanks.

Children do not need to wear school uniform on their Forest School day - they can wear suitable outdoor clothes and shoes or boots suitable for woodland walking. Please make sure that your child wears long trousers and not shorts to Forest School for their own protection.

School Uniform

At the end of last term there were some considerable variations in 'uniform' worn by children creeping in. Please help us out by sticking to the required uniform; we are a uniform wearing school. This comprises school trousers or school shorts (black, navy or grey), white or navy polo shirts, blue check school summer dresses or blue check school summer shorts sets. A Sheepscombe School sweatshirt or a navy or grey cardigan for when the weather is cooler. Cycling type shorts or leggings in similar colours can be worn under dresses if required. Please refrain from sending your child in other alternative colours. We have plenty of non-uniform days where children can come in their own clothes. Children may wear trainers or school shoes to school on a daily basis as we know many of you walk some distance to school each day.

PE on a Tuesday

Children may come dressed in their PE kits every Tuesday instead of school uniform. PE kits should be navy, grey or black joggers, shorts or leggings, a white or navy t-shirt or polo shirt and the usual Sheepscombe School sweatshirt or a navy, grey or black hoodie is also acceptable. On Fridays children will just need their trainers and can wear school uniform. Each class will have a short PE session on a Friday afternoon at school led by school staff. Tuesday PE is led by Atlas Sports and Class staff together.

Theme plans

Our whole school theme for the Autumn Term is 'Field to Fork'. Staff have been busy planning already and will let you know at the start of term how they will cover curriculum with this theme title in each class and how this links to the National Curriculum or Early Years Framework. We will let you know in due course about trips and visits this term.

School lunches

Our school kitchen is open as usual from the first day of term, the menu stays the same as the summer until half-term.





Water bottles

Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle into school each day. Staff are happy to refill it during the day. We have very limited spare bottles in school so please check your child has their water bottle when you leave home each day. Many thanks.

Parents' evenings

We will hold our usual parents' evenings at the end of September so you can meet with teachers and see how your child has settled in to their new year group. More information will follow shortly. Governors and I will also be available to talk with parents informally on these days and to answer any questions you have.

Celebration assemblies

Celebration assemblies will continue every Friday morning, starting on the second week of term at 9.00 in Eagle classroom. Parents/Grandparents are welcome to attend this assembly. Children should come into school as usual and once settled in assembly we will invite you in. At the first assembly the Reception children will receive their special 'Welcome to School' Sheepscombe teddy bear.

Reception children phased entry

For new Reception children please see your information pack (given out last term) about phased transition arrangements. As a reminder, children can start full time or part time during this transition period - more details are in your booklet.

There will be much more information to share in the coming weeks, but hopefully this letter will answer some of the questions you may have ahead of the start of term. We look forward to seeing you and your children very soon.

Kind regards,

Vicky Dangerfield and the staff team