

Head teacher Newsletter – Friday 2nd October 2020, Term1 Week4

Well here we are! It is Friday and we have had a full and fantastic week in school! I am so pleased that we have returned to the best 'normal' we can in the current circumstances. I have been delighted to see so many children return to school this week and have enjoyed speaking with many of you on the gate throughout the week.

Thanks: A sincere and heartfelt thank you to you all. My staff team and I are really appreciative of the generous and genuine support you have demonstrated towards us, our school, and the difficult circumstances we have faced over the last few weeks. Thanks for your support – it means so much!

Obviously, we have some children absent from school this week for a range of reasons, and we have had a few people have Covid tests in the community. Fortunately, all of the children who have been tested this week have been negative and have been able to return when they have felt well and able to do so.

We are all looking forward to hopefully having a safe, settled, calm and routine few weeks moving forward. I also want to reassure everyone that we are continuing to do all we can to make things as safe as possible in school and actively encourage all families to return to school.

I need to stress that the Government and Department for Education (DfE) have made it clear that attendance is mandatory and schools should pursue all avenues (including fines if necessary) to ensure that children are back in school. Most of you know my style of approach well by now and I would much rather work with people and engage in positive conversation than follow more formal routes. However if needed the Governors and I will have to follow national guidance on this important matter – education matters!

Well wishes to any families who have people currently unwell with Covid 19 or other illnesses.

Staffing update

I am pleased to announce that our chickens have returned to school this term! Mrs Gay has brought regular attendee and firm favourite Jackie back into school, and this half term is joined by Maggie. Welcome to Carlton Maggie!

Mrs Longfield: In more serious news, I wrote last night to inform the parents and children of Peregrine Class that Mrs Longfield has resigned from school and as result will not be returning after her current absence.

Mrs Longfield has served the local community for a long and admiral period, working at the school for 27 years. She has worked with many colleagues and made an impact on even more children over this period of loyal service. I thank Mrs Longfield, on behalf of the whole school community, for her contributions and service to our school, both in the last 5 years I have been Head teacher and prior to my arrival. I wish her well for a return to full health and all the best for her next chapter. Goodbye Mrs Longfield!

Peregrine Class moving forward: I am really **pleased that Mrs Woodhouse will remain with the Peregrine class up to October half term.** In these challenging times (both in terms of Mrs Longfield's absence and Covid 19) she has provided stable, high quality, and positive teaching and care for the children. This arrangement gives the children a longer period with a teacher I really respect and value. **After half term, from the 2nd November 2020 and for the rest of the school year,** we have secured a great team of people to work with the class. With support from the upper KS2 Teaching assistants Mrs Pierce, Mrs Gay, Mrs Pemberton and Mrs Mackintosh, **I am thrilled to announce that Mrs Short and Mrs Whisker will be returning to school to teach the class.** Like Mrs Woodhouse, Mrs Short and Mrs Whisker are both excellent teachers who I value and respect. They obviously come to the Peregrine class rich with experience, expertise and a familiarity and love for our school.

After a tricky start to the year I couldn't be more happy to tell you about these arrangements which will be great for school and fantastic for the children themselves.

Potential name change

Thank you to everyone who has taken a minute to answer my short survey about this matter. We have had a superb response with everyone's opinions being taken into account.

Perhaps, the only exception to this is the suggestion of having the Premier League Leeds United kit as our new PE Kit – I am much more likely to prefer a lovely blue kit (similar to that of the mighty Ipswich Town FC of League 1!!!).

Seriously, in response to some questions about uniform change or potential badge change, if we do alter the school name, no one will be asked to buy the new uniform to have a new logo on, and the colour of the School uniform will definitely remain the same.

I will keep you updated with the survey outcome in due course. Last chance, if you haven't yet let us know your thoughts please do so my clicking on the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SK8N2CM>

Other important info and reminders:

- SAFETY:
 - Please remember to encourage the children not to bring in any unnecessary items from home into school for safety purposes. For example some homework tasks that have been set involve simply taking a photo of something made and emailing it the teacher rather than bringing that item in.
 - Birthday cakes and treats. As above, due to the Covid 19 restrictions, we would prefer for you not to bring anything in from home. If you feel you really want to bring in a birthday cake to share, please can it be a bought product from a shop (rather than homemade) so we can wipe down the outer and inner wrapper etc., rather than having to leave a cake for 72 hours in quarantine.

- PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE return any library books & home reading books that you have at home from prior to lockdown and the summer break. We are missing lots of our lovely books! Please help us with this!
- Next week I will be outlining our approach to some of our usual Autumnal activities, including, Conkers Harvest and Halloween - all of which, as you would expect, will be seriously limited due to the Covid 19 situation.

Thanks again for your support this week and helping the return to school go really well.

Keep safe and have a good weekend everyone.

Regards and best wishes

Jon Watson

Head teacher

Developing lively, inquiring and creative minds