

10 September 2021

Dear Parents,

It has been a pleasure to see everyone back this week, and we welcome in particular our new children to Year 2, Year 6, Reception and in Early Years. Already I have seen some wonderful work across the school and most of us are definitely in the Green Zone of Regulation. Year 6 have their new responsibilities and I am sure we will hear more about these shortly. In the meantime we welcome our Head Boy and Head Girl, Eric and Darcey. The speeches presented to the school last week are included below at the end of the Newsletter. I look forward to working with them.

This week I am aware that the standard of our communications has not been as you are accustomed to and I do apologise for this. This is due to a combination of circumstances, some of which were unforeseen.

As we are all learning to manage the relative freedom from Covid restrictions we need to return to pre-Covid arrangements which I will outline below.

Communications: We will endeavour to answer emails on the day they are sent, or acknowledge receipt of your email if information has to be sought from others. In this case we will get back to you as soon as possible, usually by the following day. For the last fifteen months emails have been a lifeline, but now if you have a straightforward question or need to give us information, please do ring the doorbell at drop off or pick-up and speak to the office staff to avoid an office email if possible. Mrs Ireland has now joined Mrs Martin full time in the School Office and will come to the main door to help. The office staff, other than Mrs Emslie, Bursar, do not work in the office in school holidays or after 4.30 pm. I know this led to some frustration as emails in August were not routinely answered. If urgent, do email me in the holidays. Both the office and I have been overwhelmed by the quantity of emails recently. I receive 50 to 100 each day. Also, please do not expect a response to emails sent to individual staff at weekends, holidays or after 5pm. I need them to be doing their lesson preparation or resting so as to be ready to teach your children.

I am almost always at drop off and usually free at 3.30- 5 pm (apart from Tuesdays) and am very happy to see anyone with queries or concerns. Otherwise please do phone or email me or the School Office. I am keen to put the school communications back to normal.

Recent Questions:

Pick up times: children up to end of Reception at 3.30 pm. Year 1 and 2 at 3.40 pm. Year 3-6 at 3.50 pm. These are pre-Covid times but of course many of you will not have known this.

Drop off times. For Reception to Year 6 children please drop them off between 8.30 and 8.45am. This seems to be working well with registration at 8.50 am. It became obvious in the last year that children coming straight into school rather than playing outside first were in a much better frame of mind for starting work and led to the first lesson of the day being more productive so we will stay with this plan. There is, of course Breakfast Club between 7.30 and 8.30 am for those who need wraparound care. To eat breakfast children need to be in school by 8.00 am please.

Instrumental lessons. If you made an email request for piano, violin, flute or guitar lessons, you will have been contacted by the office or the peripatetic teacher. If you would like your child to learn these instruments there are spaces for them to start next week, so please do let us know immediately. A singing teacher is expected to be available later this term.

PE kit for Year 1 and 2. This used to be gold polo shirts but then we found a number of children were wearing the more sophisticated navy tops (which the older children have) so changed the kit list to include these. So let us do this: Whichever you have is fine. As the gold polo tops wear out we would like the children to change to the navy tops but are not expecting anyone with a gold top to change before they are worn out or too small.

Caps and hats: Thank you, most children are now wearing these to school and Year 5 wore them on their recent school trip. (So much easier to spot!) The sun hats are not a replacement and probably will not be needed until next year. I have seen many new smart uniforms including new blazers and we will endeavour to keep them looking smart in school. Labelling all uniform does help avoid clothes ending up in lost property.

Clubs: We are still getting requests for clubs which is fine, there are spaces in many, although not all. Children should be collected from all clubs from the conservatory please with the exception of those attending gym club in the sports hall. These gym children should be collected from the sports hall. The younger ones attending the first gym class will be taken back to school for After School Club if not collected from the sports hall.

After School Club tea is provided at 4.00 for those who start clubs at 4.30 or 5.00 pm, and also tea at 4.30 pm for those whose clubs finish at 4.30 and are staying for After School Club. If your child is attending a 4.00pm club and then going home rather than to ASC they will be supervised between school and club and can bring a small snack to keep them going.

If your child is attending ASC either side of another club, please book this with the office.

Parents Consultations on Zoom were popular and we will keep these on Zoom this term for Reception to Year 6.

So many lovely and unexpected things happen at Fosse. I have been sent the 1925 plans for the building when it was amended for its second owner. Some of these were written over earlier plans from the first owner in the previous century so we now have a great deal more information about the school. I now know why we have an extra black door not far from the main door, and did you know that the stone cube in front of the house was for mounting your horse! Could come in useful? If any of you have a particular interest in history or our building, I would love to hear from you.

And lastly, plants. Recent research from the GDST shows that CO2 levels are much reduced in classrooms with one plant per two children. We now have many spider plants, aloe vera and designated 'plant carers' in each class. We could still do with some more house plants so if anyone has any spare houseplants in pots (plastic or otherwise and with a base of 10cm or less) we would be delighted to rehouse them.

Best wishes,

Alison Cordingley.

Alison Cordingley – or, named by a new Early Years child, Misscordingleyhead!

Head Girl, Darcey Year 6

I am extremely honoured to be chosen as Head Girl this year for Fosse Bank School. I hope to be an outstanding role model to all the younger ones and be reliable and trustworthy at all times. I am greatly excited to also be the head of the School Council team where we can make great additions to our already fabulous school. If you have any problems in the playground, feel free to come to me or the Head Boy for help or advice. Thanks again Fosse Teachers for making me Head Girl!

Head boy, Eric Year 6

I am honoured to have been chosen to be Head boy for this year and will take my duties seriously. I will encourage people to do their best in all activities and to be kind to all their friends and the people around them. I am excited to be head of School Council. If you have any problems in the playground you can come to me and I'll try and fix them. I am excited to work on the newspaper with the Head girl, Darcey. If you have any suggestions for the school council put them in the idea box in the conservatory. I am trustworthy and generous and will always try and help. Thank you, Fosse for being a great school for me to grow up in.