



Bennet Canfield, Little Canfield, Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1YE

5th September 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers and Guardians,

A quick update and a few changes.

Firstly, welcome back and hopefully you all got to enjoy the sunshine over the summer break.

Having listened to a number of parents and had discussions with our teachers we would like to begin to open up the school by removing some of the constraints that have previously been put in place;

- 1) We have begun to allow Year 6 children to now enter and leave school via the central gate that links to the Year 6 courtyard.
- 2) From Monday 10th September, Year 3, 4 and 5 children can now be picked up and dropped off in the rear courtyard at the beginning and end of days.
- 3) All gates will now open just before 8:45 a.m. instead of 8:40 a.m. This is to allow teachers time to brief their LSAs about the morning expectation and the specific role that they will play. Our LSAs start work at 8:30 a.m. so should give better time to have a professional meeting each morning, before they go on their outside duty, with teachers remaining in class to meet and greet the children.

We will run the 3 key points above for a trial over this first half-term. Do please make contact with class teachers at the end of the day if required, the new arrangements should make this easier! LSA's are still on duty to pass on messages at the beginning of the day, to enable teachers to focus on their teaching which starts as the children enter the classroom with their early morning work, with the first lesson starting promptly at 9.00am after registers close.

Other things to look out for as the term progresses;

- a) An earlier parent evening date(s) to enable us to catch-up with how the children have settled in to their new classes. Dates to be confirmed but this will be before half-term.
- b) Improved communications relating to how well children are doing in class by using an online app called "Class DoJo". This enables you to see what type of "DoJo" points your child is earning e.g. perseverance, organisation etc. This replaces the house point system which has not been effective. Year 5 are also aiming to trial an online portfolio for children to share their work. A monitored chatroom will also be available to help better and safer prepare children for the online world of social media. More details will follow when we are ready to launch.

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- c) Do please keep an eye out for our ever improving website at www.takeley-pri.essex.sch.uk. Term dates for the year are already published; other key dates and events will be published as they are confirmed.
- d) This year we are also looking to replace our again I.T. infrastructure. A new superfast broadband with up to 80mb has already been installed, as has a new central server. We are now looking to replace all desktop and laptop computers, along with the various Wi-Fi routers around the school.
- e) We also plan to build a new Key Stage 2 adventure playground. We aim to invite a few companies to meet with our pupil school council to hear their ideas before they submit their designs. Children will then be given opportunity to vote for their preferred design to help select the final design to be built.
- f) Teachers will continue to build our new curriculum, please see your child's year group page on the school website. With a new curriculum comes new investment particularly in new reading and reference books to support English and research across the curriculum, along with an improved range of Maths resources to help support children's visual understanding of mathematical concepts.

We have a busy, but exciting time ahead. We look forward to working with you and supporting your children in becoming the best they can.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Andy Cosslett (Headteacher)

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