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Headteacher: Mr. C. Gibson

6th October 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the end of another week at Belmont!

Marilyn

Marilyn, our wonderful school crossing patrol warden, will sadly be leaving us on Friday 27th October as we finish for half term. As we know, Marilyn is a hugely important and well-loved member of our school community and will obviously be enormously missed by every one of us. I will write again soon with further information about how we plan to celebrate her time with us.

I have been asked a few times whether there will be another person appointed to supervise the crossing of our children and, at this point, the answer is that I do not know but will keep you updated as soon as I do find anything out.

Harvest

Next week sees Harvest being celebrated across the school. On Tuesday, KS2 will be walking to St Nicholas' Church for their Harvest service, starting at 1.30pm. Please feel free to join us.

Next Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, KS1 will be presenting their Harvest assembly to parents, carers and friends. Information about this has been sent out. Friends of Belmont will be serving refreshments at each of the two KS1 assemblies (and they accept both cards and cash!!!!!!!!!!!!!!).

As always, we will be collecting non-perishable donations for The Bridge in Guisborough to support those most in need at this time. Items can be brought to school from Monday 9th October and, in recognition of any items brought in, we will hold a non-uniform day on Friday 13th. This means there is no need for a one pound donation! Please find attached a list of FoodStop Shortages provided by The Bridge.

Parent / Teacher Consultations

The booking system for the parent / teacher consultations will 'go live' on Monday 9th October for appointments on Monday 23rd and Wednesday 25th. Mr Gowland's class appointments will be the week prior to this as already communicated.

School Uniform

Following a previous communication, just a bit more information on our stance on school uniform in light of one or two (and only really one or two) issues recently.

Firstly, I would like to reiterate that we try as best as we possibly can to make our uniform as simple and, more importantly in my view, as cost effective as is possible. Nobody particularly wants to spend large amounts of money on uniform when there are more important issues (in my personal opinion). However, as a primary school our aim is to ensure that children feel part of a unique community, there is no 'competition' as to types / brands of clothing or footwear worn, we prepare our children for, perhaps, more 'stringent' uniform measures as they move on from primary school and, in relation to footwear and jewellery in particular, attire is appropriate to help ensure children's safety as best we can. We also request that hair is of 'a natural colour' ie not dyed.

There are times when things get lost, damaged or too small! Not a problem! Let us know and of course we fully accept that and request that we 'get back to usual' in a suitable time frame. Shoes are a particular menace in that regard as we all know too well. Towards the end of the school year, when shoes are traditionally getting a little worn / tired / tight, we actively DISCOURAGE the purchase of new ones because the chances are that, by September, they too will have become too small over the Summer break. As an aside, people have asked why we request that boots are not worn. Put simply, we have had numerous issues where children playing 'chase' games have fallen. Very often they are wearing ankle length boots.....

Jewellery IS discouraged, especially necklaces and bracelets. If there are specific reasons why they might need to be worn, PLEASE let me know and we can very easily come to an agreement. Ear piercings MUST be of the small 'stud' type. Hoops or other similar items which can 'dangle' from the ears can get caught, especially during break times and although the chances of this are unlikely, we try to minimise as much risk as we can. This is why we request that ear piercings are removed or 'taped up' for PE.

PE kit can be worn to school on PE days but, as mentioned before, we do request that white shirts and navy or black shorts / leggings are worn. As the weather turns a bit colder, jogging bottoms / sweatshirt might be a good idea but for safety reasons, we would prefer ones without zips. If children attend an after-school sports club, they can bring their change of clothing into school to change prior to their activity. We have no requests for what children wear to these.

This is merely to serve as a reminder. Walking around school (including PE lessons), just about every child is wearing fully appropriate clothing (and very smart they look too!).

Ultimately, if there is a challenge or difficulty with any of this, please contact me. I do not believe there are any issues we cannot solve.

Running Club

The weather has had something of an adverse impact on running club this week. The schedule for next week is as follows:

Monday: Year 3

Tuesday: Year 4

Wednesday: Year 5

Thursday: Year 6

Term-time Holiday Requests

I have received a notification from the Local Authority who are referred to as the 'relevant enforcer' in relation to fixed term penalty notices for low school attendance (most notably holidays). I have been reminded that a penalty notice should be issued where holidays are taken and the attendance of a child is below 95% for the previous twelve calendar months. This criteria very rarely applies to our families but, if you are seeking leave of absence, please feel free to check your child's level of attendance with us to ensure it does not fall into this bracket. I would also like to make it very clear that I am personally not fully supportive of the issuing of fixed penalty notices for a multitude of reasons which I think it best not to go into on a school newsletter but, similarly, we are bound by legal structures which exist. Suffice to say, I am not a believer that 'one size always fits all'. I will leave it there.....

And Finally.....

It would appear that the weekend may not be a 'Summer like' as we had previously been led to believe but, nonetheless, let's just go out and enjoy it! As always, many thanks for your continued support, something we greatly appreciate.

Yours Sincerely



Mr C Gibson