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14 September 2018

LT/DHB 4087

Dear Parents

### **Newsletter 2 / Home-School Partnership Notes**

We have come to the end of our first full week and feel very happy with the way children have settled. It has been lovely to watch the way our older children in assembly through to lunchtimes and playtimes have been watching out for and taking care of our new tiddlers. In assemblies and in our own classes we have been reminding children of our expectations regarding behaviour and how important it is that we are all considerate of each other's feelings and needs. The following points are areas which we are currently discussing and which you can help us with:

**Bullying** We have started our work on this by reminding the children that the most important person not to bully is oneself; if we learn to respect ourselves, then a sense of inner strength or resilience spreads out in our dealings with other people. This is easier said than done, but it is important to realise that when people bully, essentially it is telling us they are not very strong inside. Our first "saying" that we are using in assembly is "Be kind to the unkind people; they need it the most". If a child experiences any difficulties they know they must talk to parents and teachers.

**Uniform** Children with the correct uniform have been complimented and the children understand that making the effort to do the right thing shows respect for the school community: black trainers mean black, with no added flashes of colour.

**Walking Home** From Year 3, many children are capable of meeting their parent at the gate, down at Snells or, if they live in the village, walking all the way home. This is a tremendous transition point for parents and only you know when it is the right time for your child! We ask that you let us know if your child is in Year 3 and you would like this to happen. When they are allowed to do this, we make a huge fuss saying how wonderful that they can be trusted to be responsible.

**Parking** In assembly we often remind children who have to travel regularly or occasionally by car that they are not to ask their parent to drive up to school because of the grave danger it poses to other children and toddlers. If the parent decides to drive up, we tell the children to gently remind their mum or dad of the school rule. Some parents came in to tell us that last week there was an incident where a car had come up and had to reverse down Church Street. We know there is

an issue of convenience but please, please can we all abide by the request NOT to drive up to school except for breakfast and after-school club.

**Birthdays** Last year we made great inroads into addressing the problem of, with roughly 30 children in a class, 30 occasions during the year when the children were being faced with cakes/packets of sweets/chocolate bars. We also know that it can be stressful for parents to keep up with whatever the latest 'thing' is and obviously they don't want their child to feel they have been left out. Add in how seriously we have to address allergies these days, it becomes something that eats into teaching time as the teacher needs to remember who can have what. As the birthday children have Happy Birthday sung to them in the lunch hall there really is no extra need to mark the occasion, so please do not send in cakes or sweets. We will be talking about this with the children again.

**Lunches** Our expectation is that all children in Classes 1 and 2 make good use of having three years of having free lunches; it's a fabulous way of making new tastes and experiences the norm and we know from feedback that it pays dividends for the future. If there are unavoidable reasons for this being different then obviously parents talk to me. At Key Stage 2 children who choose to bring packed lunches must bring water only, no crisps or sweets or chocolate bars, and they need a paper towel or napkin so that they can put their food on the table and store their bags or sandwich boxes under their chair. This makes for a much nicer eating environment for all.

**Nuts** Reminder – we have children and adults in our school community who are allergic to nuts, therefore we are a nut-free school!

Yours sincerely

Liz Tansley

## Diary Dates

These are some dates for your diary; others will be added later on!

19 September	FOTH Tie Dye Event, taking place in the park straight after school.
21/22/23 September	Osmington for Years 5 and 6
28 September	FOTH cake sale 3.30 pm
5 October	Harvest Festival, 9.30 at the church, all parents welcome
8/9/10/11 October	Parent Teacher Interviews
12 October	Bassistry Arts music day plus Classroom Trail 9-10.30 am  FOTH Harvest Supper, 6-10 pm West Hendred Village Hall
18/19 October	Court Hill, Years 3 and 4
19 October	End of term, 3.30 pm.
31 October	Term 2 starts
9 November	FOTH cake sale 3.30 pm
11/12 December	Nativity, Classes 1 and 2, 5.45 pm (no pre-schoolers and no Key Stage 2 children. Please organise babysitters!)
13 December	Carol Concert, Key Stage 2, 5.45 pm (no pre-schoolers or Key Stage 1 children)
14 December	Pantomime/ theatre trip, Classes 1 and 2, evening performance, 6.00 pm
18/19 December	Christmas Soldier, 5.45 pm (no pre-schoolers and no Key Stage 1 children)
20 December	Christmas Lunch (no sandwiches that day)
21 December	Whole school Sports Tournament End of term, finish 12 noon