

Tickhill Estfeld Primary School



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Tuesday 27th August 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope that you have all had a happy Summer and that you are looking forward to school re-opening. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our existing children and families back to Estfeld and also many new families to our school too.

I apologise for the fact that this letter is lengthy. There are some changes to notify you about within school and also some new guidance from the government that I need to share with you.

Staffing Update

There are a couple of staffing updates that I wanted to inform you of ahead of the new term beginning so that you can share with your child(ren) if you wish. I will be having an operation this week and will be absent from school for the first couple of weeks of term. This is a planned operation and nothing to be concerned about. Mrs Forster will be in school full time for these two weeks and I know she will do a fantastic job of leading school at the beginning of term with the excellent support of Mrs Martin and Mrs Fisher.

Additionally, Mr Roberts is having a planned operation in the first week of term. He is likely to be absent for the first two weeks at least. Mrs Johnson will teach Year Six full time for this period of time and Mrs Martin will teach Year Three on a Monday. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mr Roberts well and we look forward to seeing him back in school when he is fully recovered.

Change to Government Guidance regarding Unauthorised Absence

The Department for Education (DfE) have introduced new guidance for schools for managing and supporting attendance. They have also introduced a new national framework for penalty notices and amended the law. These changes came into effect from 19th August 2024 and all schools across the country are expected to follow the new statutory guidance. I would like to draw your attention to some of the key guidance.

Absence from school should only occur when pupils are unfit to learn, where there is an exceptional circumstance or when your child has a day of religious observance. Please note that that **a family holiday can no longer be classed as an exceptional circumstance due to parents' working patterns** or set holidays. It is expected that any holidays taken will be referred for the consideration of a penalty notice being issued by the local authority.



The National Framework for Penalty Notices has been introduced to provide consistency. All schools are now required to refer absences for fines. This can be due to a holiday/unauthorised absence or repeatedly being late to school. Fines are issued by the Local Authority and with effect from August 2024, the fine for school absences for each parent will be £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid within 28 days. In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within a three year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160. Fines will be capped at two fines within a three year period. Once this limit has been reached, other actions such as a parenting order or prosecution will occur.

Tour of Britain

Before the summer break we requested permission to take all pupils in Years Two to Six out of school on Thursday 5th September to watch the Tour of Britain pass through Tickhill. The children will have lunch in school once they return. If you have yet to return your reply on ParentMail Forms, please do so as soon as possible.

If your child would like to make posters or flags to wave as the cyclists pass, then please ask them to do so and bring them into school with them on the morning of the race.

Start and End of the School Day

Just a reminder that a member of school staff will be on duty at the school gates at the beginning and end of the school day to assist parents and pupils. Entry to the school site continues to be through the gate adjacent to the school drive. A one-way system operates on site and all must leave by the exit gate, which is adjacent to the cycle storage area. This makes it less congested for pupils and parents.

Morning

Gates open from 8.45am. Reception and KS1 parents may accompany pupils to the playground and drop-off at the cloakroom door, where they will be met by a member of school staff. Parents should leave the school site by following the one-way system. Teaching assistants will be at the classroom doors to greet pupils and the teachers in the classrooms with a morning activity for the children to complete.

KS2 pupils should enter the school site independently and go directly to their cloakroom door, where they will be met by a member of school staff. Parents should not enter the school site, other than year 3 parents who can take their pupils to their classroom door for the first week of term as a transition period.

Gates close at 8.55am, when all cloakroom doors will be closed. All pupils arriving after this time must ring the bell at the pedestrian gate and go directly to the School Office. Pupils who are late must be accompanied to the School Office by an adult. Registration is at 8.55 exactly. Please aim to get children to school for 8.45am if possible as they miss morning activities and an additional ten minutes learning a day when they only just arrive before the doors close.

Afternoon

Gates open from 3.10pm. Cloakroom doors will not open until 3.15pm, which is the end of the school day.

Reception and KS1: A member of school staff will ensure that children are only released when their adult is present. Please stand near to the cloakroom door.

KS2: Pupils will be released at their cloakroom door at the end of the school day and allowed to leave independently. Parents should arrange to meet their children either on the KS2 playground or on Common Lane. If possible, Year 5 and 6 parents should arrange to meet their child further up Common Lane to ease congestion outside the school gate. Pupils in Years 3 and 4 must use the one-way system to exit the school site if they are not being collected on the playground. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 will exit through the entry gate adjacent to the drive. **Only** pupils in Year 5 and 6 will be allowed to walk home independently.

Uniform/equipment

Pupils should wear full uniform from Wednesday and bring their school bag and coat. If your child has PE then they should wear their PE kit for the whole day. Please see below for PE days. PE will start on the first day, so pupils in Y2, 4 and 6 should come in their PE kit on this day.

Monday – Y3, Y4, Y6

Tuesday – Reception, Y1, Y3

Wednesday – Y2, Y4, Y6

Thursday – Y1, Y5

Friday – Y2, Y5

Reception and KS1 should use their book bag for reading books and home learning and their drawstring bag for their trainers which should be left at school from the first day for the remainder of term. KS2 pupils should bring their drawstring bag for reading books and any home learning. Please remember that **only the bags purchased from school should be used**. If you require a replacement bag, they are available to purchase on ParentPay.

Pupils should bring a water bottle every day. These must only contain water and children will be reminded to bring them home each night to be washed and refilled. Please ensure the bottles are plastic and clear as the metal ones are too heavy. Also, please do not send children to school with very expensive water bottles as they may get damaged or misplaced.

Jewellery/Nail Varnish

Children should wear no jewellery to school at all other than a plain pair of silver or gold studs but these should not be worn on PE days. A watch can be worn but no smart watches please. Nail varnish and make up is not permitted at all.

PE Kit Reminder

Just a reminder that PE kit is now a red school jumper or cardigan and does not include a black hoodie anymore. Full PE kit includes trainers, black joggers or shorts (not leggings), a plain white t-shirt and a red jumper or cardigan. Please ensure that the trainers children wear for PE are sports trainers and not fashion trainers. There should be no logos on any of the PE kit other than the school logo.

Year Three Changes

As pupils move into Key Stage Two, there are some changes for them. Fruit/snack will no longer be provided for pupils; however, they can bring their own piece of fruit to school each day if they wish. Key Stage Two children wear their PE kits with trainers and no longer leave their trainers in school. Also, pupils in Year Three do not use a book bag anymore, only the school drawstring bag.

Hopefully the information above will answer your questions about returning to school. If you have any further questions, please do get in touch.

Kind regards
Mrs Amanda Painter

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Painter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Headteacher