

Learning together

Principal: Neil Sykes, MA NPQH

10 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We have all enjoyed a great start to the new academic year and I would like to express my thanks to you for your support. The children have quickly settled into their new classroom routines and typically focussed on their learning.

Covid-19 will continue to challenge us all, as we endeavour to live with the virus and establish a return to normality. The school's management of infection barriers has been very effective; however, the return to school after a holiday period has resulted in some confirmed Covid-19 absences. PCR tests for our children are not undertaken at school, although we do have Lateral Flow tests that parents can request for home use. The majority of staff have been double vaccinated and there is now talk of children 12 years plus receiving the vaccination through schools. I have not received any information from the Authorities regarding the proposal to vaccinate children at Arbour Vale, but would like to reassure all parents that the decision to vaccinate or not rests with parents, and consent will be required if you wish your child to be vaccinated.

The success of the school in terms of growing pupil numbers has created a few headaches at the start and end of the school day. I am extremely grateful for your patience and understanding whilst we try to find a solution. This problem might just be during the first week, as many parents either do not have contract transport in place, or just wish to settle their child into school at the start of the academic year. There are approximately 40 new children in school and this has increased staffing levels placing pressure on available car parking spaces. Local traffic has been congested due to ongoing roadworks which further compound traffic flow on site.

The leadership team will continue to monitor the situation next week and if problems persist we will consider a staggered start and end to the day. I will also explore possible offsite car parking in the absence of Slough Council progressing proposals to develop additional car parking to the front of the school.

A nice ending to this first newsletter of the academic year is that our new Learning Library will be officially opened on Thursday 23rd September. A significant investment has been made in reading material and technology to support learning, providing a wonderful library resource that will be accessible to all children.

All staff are looking forward to welcoming parents onto the school site later this term, as we seek to build on the very positive relationship we enjoy with you. Further information and dates of school events can be found on our website.

Wishing you and the children a successful academic year.

Yours sincerely



Neil Sykes
Principal