Harvest Term Newsletter 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year!
We are delighted to welcome all of our families back and extend a particularly warm welcome to those whose children are joining us for the very first time.

We know that the start of a new school year can feel a little overwhelming as everyone settles back into routines and gets used to any changes. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or need any support. We are always happy to help and look forward to working together for another wonderful year. Below are a few reminders to help!

School Uniform

- The children always look smart in their school uniform. Please ensure that every item of uniform, and all personal items are named so we can return them to the right person when they get lost.
- Please ensure that your child is wearing their tie and blazer on days when they do not have PE.
- Your child should come to school in a pair of black school shoes. Trainers (unless it is a PE day), crocs, boots or open-toed sandals are not permitted.
- Please ensure you provide a book bag for your child. School branded book bags can be purchased from Stevensons, although any book bag will be fine.
- Please can we ask that book bags are clearly labelled with your child's name and that they are only used for your child's reading books and hear me diaries, no water bottles please!

Earrings

- For safety reasons, only small stud earrings are permitted in school. Hooped or dangling earrings are not allowed, as they pose a risk during physical activities and playtime.

PE

- Children should come in their PE kits on the day they have PE.
- PE days are as follows:

EYFS	Thursday
Year 1	Wednesday
Year 2	Monday
Year 3	Thursday
Year 4	Thursday
Year 5	Thursday
Year 6	Thursday

- Year 4 will be swimming every Friday until Christmas. This is in addition to their PE lesson.

Parking

- Please remember that parents are not permitted to drive down Surrey Street to drop off or pick up their children. Cameras are in operation along this street and you may get a fine!
- Parents can park for short periods at the drop off point at the top of the bus station on Queens Road in order to drop off your child. There is also parking available in Sainsburys and in other local car parks.
- Where possible, we encourage you to use public transport or walk.

Drop off and Pick Up

- All children should enter the school in the morning by the front door where they will be greeted by a member of staff.
- Please try to refrain from escorting your child into school as we try to encourage them to be as independent as they can!
- Please encourage your child to walk to school. They should not be coming to school in a pushchair. Please do not leave pushchairs in the bike sheds as we do not have space!

- At the end of the day, school staff will only release your child when they make eye contact with you.

Nut-Free School Reminder

- Please note that we are a nut-free school as some of our children have severe nut allergies. To help keep all pupils safe, please do not send any food into school that contains nuts or nut products. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us maintain a safe environment for all children.

Morning Routine

- Learning in class begins at **8:30am** each day.
- While the register is taken at **8:50am**, arriving earlier means children benefit from extra support with maths and spellings. It's brilliant if they can be here as close to 8:30am as possible.
- Children arriving after 8:50am when the front door closes will be registered as being late!

Tapestry

- We will continue to use Tapestry to record learning in some subjects. This is a great way for you to see your child's work and celebrate their achievements.
- If you need help with your login, please contact the office and we will be happy to assist.

Prodigy Online Maths Game

- All children, from year 1 onwards have a Prodigy maths game login.
- If you need a reminder about how to log in please contact the main office.
- We can track your child's progress when they are using this and teachers may set additional work on this programme.

Snacks

- Snacks should be healthy - **please avoid chocolate and crisps**.

Reading at Home

- We ask that you read every day with your child, for a minimum of 10 minutes. All evidence shows that this will help your children make the best progress with their reading. This should be recorded in your child's reading record for Years R-5. Class teachers will monitor these on a weekly basis.

Optional Homework

- As per school policy, homework is not mandatory, but it will help the children meet learning expectations and give you an idea of the work we do in class.
- You will receive a set of weekly spellings on Tapestry to practice with your child. Spelling remains a key skill for successful writing and accurate vocabulary building.

Medications

- We understand that, from time to time, children will require medicines to be administered in school. If your child needs medication during the school day please come and fill in a form in the main office so that we can ensure it is given correctly.
- Please note we are only allowed to administer prescribed medications.

Time out from school

- If your child is absent from school for whatever reason, please notify the main office before 9:00am either by calling 01603 761044, or by email at office@freeschoolnorwich.org.uk
- We are unable to authorise holidays during term time but if you have booked time away please contact us for an absence form.

Reading Quest

- We are encouraging all children to take part in their year group's Reading Quest. Reading continues to be at the heart of our curriculum and we want to

encourage all our children to develop a lifelong love of reading. Each child will be challenged to read 5 Fiction, 5 non-fiction and 10 independent choice books over the course of the academic year. The books can be sourced from your child's class reading corner, our fantastic library, or your local library. Each book read will need to be recorded in your child's book log. Additional activities will be optional this year. Every child who completes the FSN Reading Quest will receive a personalised certificate presented in assembly, alongside the knowledge and reward that they are striving to be thriving readers!

School Lunches

- Please note that the cost of a school meal for those who pay for them will increase from £3.50 to £3.60 from this term. This is the first increase in the price of a school meal in over six years and reflects the rising costs associated with providing high-quality, nutritious meals for our pupils. We remain committed to offering healthy and enjoyable lunches each day, and we are pleased that we have been able to keep costs unchanged for such a long period.

School Website

- Finally, if you haven't already looked on our website we have a large parent section where you may be able to find information you need**:** https://www.freeschoolnorwich.org.uk

Kind regards,
Darren

Communication and Information Easy Access
Newsletters: http://www.freeschoolnorwich.org.uk/parents/newsletters/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/The-Free-School-Norwich-102238845787805)
Twitter: https://twitter.com/freeschnorwich
OFSTED Parentview: https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/
Calendar: http://www.freeschoolnorwich.org.uk/school-calendar/