



Dear Parents and Carers

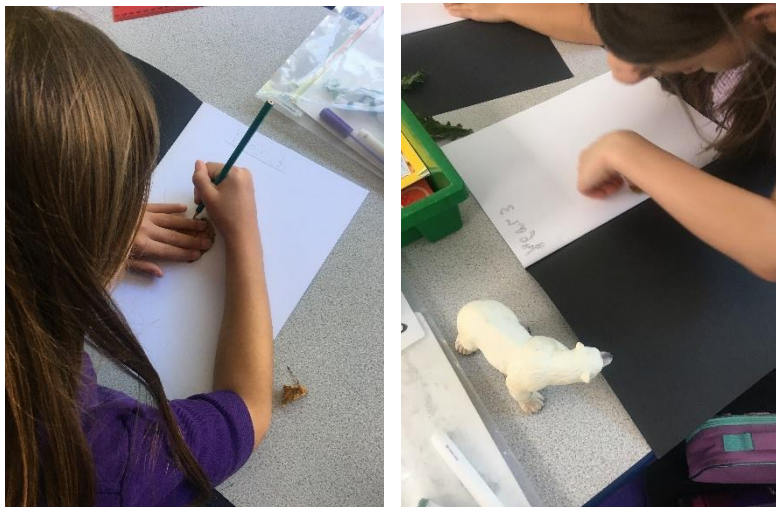
Happy New School Year! It has been so good to welcome our children back after a long summer. It has also been a delight to welcome our new **Reception Class** who have been settling in so well! Thank you so much to their parents who have been so understanding about us not being able to let them join their child in school as they normally would in this first week. That said, the children have been amazing and thrown themselves into school life with gusto. We are very proud of them. →

Year One have been busy exploring their classroom and their outdoor area too. They have been making a good transition to KS1 but don't worry – they are still spending plenty of time learning through play! ↓



As we settle into the new school year and following the COVID guidelines for operating in bubbles, children have been eating in their classrooms so far. The grab bags provided by the school kitchen do include hot options (e.g. hot sandwiches with wedges.) We hope, very soon, to be able to use the school hall to serve **dinners** and allow children to choose from the options they can see in front of them. Susan Koyuncu in the office has asked me to let you know that if you pay for dinners half termly then the cost is £79.20. (Dinners are still free in Reception, Year One and Year Two.)

I am so proud of our staff who have been creative and determined to make sure that children's learning experiences are



still as rich as possible, whilst abiding by the current health guidelines. Here you can see **Year 3** doing artwork to follow up on a Forest School session on leaves. Pete the Polar Bear has also made a welcome return – previous fans may notice that this year's incarnation is wipe-clean!

I am pleased to let you know that **Kidzone** is up and running again. The children are enjoying the new layout of the room. There are a small number of spaces left, so if you require childcare before or after school, please do contact Dawn ASAP on 07708879920. Dawn is making sure her children play outside as much as possible so, when she brings them outside, it would

help if children and parents move away from the playground so that she can keep children in their bubbles. So long as families are following current guidelines we are not stopping children playing outside after school, but please be aware that parents are responsible for their children at that time and contact tracing would still apply in the same way as it would if families were meeting outside school. Unfortunately, however, we cannot currently allow parents and siblings to come in and use the toilets due to the cleaning regime in place.

As children become faster and more practised at the handwashing routines at the start of the day the opportunities for **informal conversations** with class staff will increase. In the meantime, do get in touch with us via phone or email to keep us up to date on information relevant to your child or to ask us questions, etc.

Thank you for all your encouragement and support this week. Have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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DIARY DATES

Ordinarily we give as many dates for the year ahead as possible (e.g. Harvest, assemblies, Christmas nativity plays, etc. We are currently having to plan these nearer to the event to comply with the most recent guidance. Instead of a Harvest Festival assembly in the hall this year, we will work on an outdoor celebration instead.	
Friday 23 rd October 2020	TRAINING DAY TBC (school closed to children)
Monday 26 th to Friday 30 th October 2020 HALF TERM HOLIDAY (Kidzone and/or Art Camp should be running a playscheme)	
Thursday 28 th January 2021	TRAINING DAY TBC (school closed to children)
Tuesday 16 th March 2021	TRAINING DAY TBC (school closed to children)
Wednesday 16 th June 2021	TRAINING DAY
https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar term dates	
* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change	

If you have any concerns or observations regarding health and safety, please contact Jane Astrid Devane, Marcelle Maver or Liz Craven.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding child protection issues, please speak to Jane Astrid Devane, Marcelle Maver or Jane Hinchliffe.

If you have questions about your child's progress or how to help them with the learning they find difficult please speak to your child's teacher or make an appointment to see them via the school office.

The governors are always interested in hearing the **views of parents**. If you would like to speak to a governor, then please email the chair, Julia Kelly shireoakgovernors@gmail.com. Our parent governors are often on the playground, if you would like to talk to them.)