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Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your extended families are all keeping safe and well. The staff and I continue to be pleased with the way in which the children have adapted to their new routines and, whilst I accept some of these changes to routines, such as the staggered drop off and pick-ups may be a little more inconvenient for you as parents, ultimately they are in place to keep you, your children and my staff as safe as possible so I thank you for your cooperation. Finally, could I please ask that you ensure your child stands with you, when queuing in the mornings. Children must not be unsupervised and allowed to run around carparks, the front of school or climb railings. There are the obvious health and safety concerns around allowing the children to run around in this way but, in my experience the children are also better prepared to start their school day if they come into school in a calm and focused manner.

Parents Evening

After the success of our meet the teacher telephone calls, earlier in the term we will be holding our Autumn term parents evening consultations over the telephone week commencing **9th November**. The teachers will inform you, after half term, of the date and time they will be calling, to ensure you are available to receive the call. We appreciate it is difficult to speak freely, at the end of the day when your child is present so the teachers will be calling during their Planning and Preparation time **between 09.00-3.00pm**. We also understand that not everyone is able to take a phone call whilst at work or during the day so if you are unable to speak to the teacher at the time given to you, please inform the class teacher who will endeavour to arrange a more suitable time for you.

Wrap Around Care

Thank you to everyone that took the time to complete the SCL Wrap Around Care survey we sent out earlier in the term. Unfortunately, the very low number of parents that indicated that they would use either breakfast and/or afterschool care club have made it financially unviable for SCL to run either club at this time. We will continue to work with SCL over the coming months to monitor the situation and I will continue to explore alternative care options for those parents that require support.

Harvest Collection

Thank you to everyone that donated food for our collection. Rev. Andreas Sistig collected the food last Friday and will pass it onto The Besom for us shortly. If you missed the collection and would still like to donate please drop packages into school this week and I will ensure Rev. Sistig receives them.

FOBSA Update

FOBSA have been working hard behind the scenes to organise events to help us raise funds over the next few months. The Happy Sacks collection raised over £700! Thank you one and all for donating. Their next event is **Thursday 22nd October**, when the children are invited to wear a Halloween costume to school, in exchange for a small donation of £1.

Social Distancing

It has been brought to my attention that it can sometimes become a little congested on the footpaths, outside of school after drop off and pick up and social distancing becomes harder to adhere to. I have also noticed that some parents and children are forced to walk in the road, to ensure they are able to distance from other families. Firstly, could I please ask that when you are driving past school you drive slowly so that you are able to stop safely should a child or parent step out unexpectedly. Can I also ask that all parents and carers lining up outside of the school, move as close to the railings as possible and finally, it was suggested to me that it might help with social distancing if parents cross over the road, after drop off and pick up as some parents already do, and walk on the other pavement.

Warm clothing/Welly Boots

I am pleased to see the children all coming to school in warm coats and appropriate foot wear etc now. As the weather changes we would normally close the school field and only use the playground for play and lunch break however, this year we would like to continue to use the field all year, if at all possible. This will allow us to give the children as much space as possible and ensure class bubbles remain safely distanced. To be able to use the school field all year the children will need to bring a pair of welly boots into school, to be kept at school. We will be purchasing welly racks so that the children can safely store their welly boots and easily slip them on and off at play and lunchtime. Therefore, if your child does not already have a pair of welly boots in school, please send in a named pair after half term.

Hot School Lunch

I am pleased to report that our kitchen staff have successfully moved to five hot lunches every week and the majority of children are now having that option. After half term we will be moving to the rolling three-week menu, that we were previously able to offer. I will send you a copy of the choices, once it has been finalised. Just a gentle reminder that we are now asking parents to stick to either a hot school dinner or a packed lunch and not to swap around each day. If your child currently has a packed lunch and you would prefer them to have a school dinner every day please inform the school office.

Prospective Parents

Normally at this time of year I would be proudly showing prospective parents around our school. However, as with many other aspects of our lives at the moment we have had to adapt and change how we do things this year. We have started to make a short video showcasing our school, our wonderful children and values, to share with prospective parents over half term. Over the coming days you may see members of staff or our Chair of Governors; Mr Barker filming short clips of me, outside in the morning or around school.

Thank you

I would like to end this newsletter by saying thank you to my staff team. They have worked tirelessly this year but especially this term, to ensure your children remain safe and receive as normal a school experience as possible. The amount of work it takes to achieve this should not be underestimated and I am incredibly grateful for their dedication and commitment. I know you will join me in thanking them and wishing them a restful half term break.

I wish you all a safe and relaxing half term.

Kind regards

Miss K Aldred
Headteacher