

3rd September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back!

It was so wonderful to see all the happy smiling faces at school today: children excitedly returning to school and going to new classes; parents delighted to return to some sense of normality; teachers and staff doing the job they love.

It was a special day for me too – the first as the official Headteacher of Kingsway Primary School.

Mental well-being

Of course, we know that some may feel a little anxious about returning and learning the new routines. Despite the extensive planning, we have lots to learn together. We really want to know how your child is feeling and so we are working hard to assess this in the coming couple of days. Next week, we start with a focus on the 5 ways to well-being; a programme similar to the one we ran earlier in the year with great success. We hope that this will help the children to feel settled, calm and secure and able to focus on their learning.

Curriculum recovery

Earlier in the year, we set up a curriculum recovery team, whose aim was to evaluate the best research we could find and align it with our curriculum. We were pleased to complete much of that work in the summer and are ready to target learning that brings together what was missed last year, any forgotten content and a focus on covering the new learning for this year. Alongside mental health focus to return effectively, we have a major focus on reading this term. More information will follow on Monday with a letter from each class outlining the curriculum map for the term and our expectations for reading.

Any concerns?

Personal/emotional/financial/safeguarding: If you are worried about anything or need someone to talk with, please contact our learning mentors on: pastoralsupport@kingsway.gloucs.sch.uk

If you have specific organisational questions, please contact the office team on: admin@kingsway.gloucs.sch.uk

Any teaching or learning concerns should be directed to the class teacher via Class Dojo in the first instance.

Please also refer to our school website for lots and lots of useful information on a range of issues:

<https://kingswayprimary.org.uk/>



PE kits – next week

On a day that your child has PE, they **should come to school wearing their PE kit**. There is no PE this week but it will start next week. The PE timetable will be sent home to you shortly. The PE kit this term should be:

- trainers (not ones with flashing lights please) and socks
- shorts or jogging bottoms (or both) or **dark coloured** leggings
- a plain navy or white t-shirt (some may have the school's logo on but this is not compulsory) No logos please.
- a school jumper

Behaviour

Behaviour at KPS is a strong feature and is recognised by many visitors to the school. However, when we talked with the children and parents last year, we realised that the policy could be reviewed and improved. We therefore researched the latest guidance, read extensively and compared our approach with other settings. Subsequently, we produced a new policy which was shared with staff and governors last term. We encourage you to read the policy in full and have identified some features below:

- 1) we want children to take greater ownership of their own behaviour

We felt that the use of yellow and red cards meant that children focused on the punishment rather than what they could do to improve their behaviour next time. The cards often caused more conflict and children focused on whether the card was given fairly. This time and energy could be better spent on restoring relationships and resolving to do things differently in the future.

- 2) we felt there were too many rules that over-lapped and the children found these hard to recall.

Research and guidance shows that simple, clear and effective rules that are consistently reinforced enable children to learn better behaviours. We have therefore reduced to 3 simple rules that apply right across the school. Clearly, the age and stage of the children needs to be taken into account when applying these and lots of work will take place in class with supporting children to develop their behaviour with the use of recognition boards and simple reward systems for actions that are above and beyond the expected. Where children's personal educational needs require them to have a different approach, we will make adaptations as necessary and follow guidance from external advisors, such as educational psychologists.

Our 3 rules are:

We are:

- Ready: we are ready to learn and persevere with our learning.
- Respectful: we are kind and respectful to others and the school environment.
- Safe: we keep ourselves and others safe.

You will notice that our school motto of Kindness, Perseverance and Success is implicit to these rules.

- 3) We would like there to be strong consistent structures in responding to behaviour across the school.

Consistency is key. Across the school, we aim for all our staff to respond in the same way to children, to see the best in them, to understand their actions and to help them to grow. Our new policy supports this greatly.

Rewards and Consequences:

Within the policy, you see the way we are intending to use rewards to encourage children and how the structure of sanctions will enable all children to be safe until they can learn to do this independently. Whilst we have removed the yellow and red cards, we have increased the expectation of the best behaviour at all times for all children.

We are keen to hear your thoughts:

Developing excellent behaviour is vital to the school's success and can only be achieved in partnership with parents. We know you will be eager to understand the new policy, which was introduced to your children today in assembly and also through the classes. In the coming weeks, we will tweak and adapt this approach – we appreciate your support in working with us to make a continued and even stronger element of our school's practice.

We encourage you to read our policy, which can be found here: <https://kingswayprimary.org.uk/statutory-information/>

We would also welcome any comments you have during this consultation period, which will run from today until Friday, 18th September. Please can all feedback come to Mrs Smith via this form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ViDRyVJP20afEtg4s60K52lfaCsxykpOjpwoTn9foLFUOUhPRDIWWDRTUjNMNkrJWEhUTUEXUVJZUi4u>

We have also included the training slides used with staff from our July INSET for your interest.

Gentle reminder

We know it's hard to remember everything on the first day back, but we had many additional visits to the office today to bring in lunches, water bottles, coats, snacks and so on. Just a quick reminder that we need to minimise school access as much as we can at the moment. Please double check your child has all they need when you drop them off. Many thanks for your support.

Kind Regards



Mr L Pajak

Headteacher



Kindness Perseverance Success