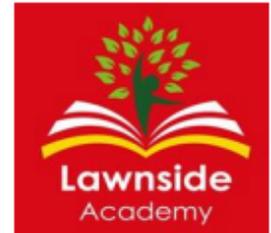


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Monday 2nd November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the half-term holiday and to a new lockdown.

Weather permitting, the children will still be getting outside as much as possible so please can we politely remind you to send your children to school dressed in suitable winter clothing for both PE and playtimes outside i.e. coats and tracksuit jumpers / trousers etc.

With regard to PE; we would like to remind parents please of our policy for the preferable removal of earrings at the commencement of every lesson to establish a safe working environment. The Association for Physical Education (AfPE) Health and Safety update in 2020 says that *"If a school adopts a policy where taping is utilised to enable participation then appropriate action needs to be taken at the start of the lesson. Staff are not required to remove or tape up earrings for students. Students should come ready for the lesson, preferably with earrings removed or adequately taped. Taping over ear piercings may offer a measure of protection in some physical activity situations, where individuals are required to work within their own personal space. However, the amount of tape used needs to be sufficient to prevent the piercing penetrating, for example, the bone behind the ear should an unintentional blow be received from someone or some item of equipment, such as a ball. Where the school accepts taping, the teacher supervising the group has the legal responsibility to ensure the taping is fit for purpose. If the teacher considers the taping to be unsatisfactory to permit safe participation, they will need to make adaptations in terms of how the student takes part in the practical aspects of the lesson. The student can contribute to group planning, designing and tactical discussions, but can have different tasks assigned to them during the practical elements of the lesson (for example, individual skills practices, peer coaching, observation and feedback tasks). Exclusion from a lesson should be avoided at all times if a student is unable to remove personal effects or the taping is deemed unsatisfactory."*

In October, we would usually have held our annual Harvest assembly and collected donations of food from our families to give to a local charity. Although we cannot hold whole school gatherings and/or assemblies currently, we would like to organise a collection of foodstuffs which we can donate to a local charity in order for them to provide food parcels for local families who may be struggling at the present time and in the current climate. If you would like to donate any tinned or packaged foodstuffs, there will be a table just inside the carpark gates, at the top of Lawnside, every morning and afternoon from Tuesday 3rd November to Friday 6th November.

On the theme of food; please can I take this opportunity to remind you that all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a daily fruit/vegetable snack to eat at playtime. Children in Year 3 and Year 4 are permitted to bring in a fruit/vegetable snack to eat at playtime also. In

addition to this, please can we ask that all children bring in a fresh bottle of water each morning. We are able to fill water bottles throughout the day for the children but the children's water fountains are out of service at this time resulting in them having to wait for a drink/refill when their water bottles are empty.

Around half-term, we would usually organise Parents Evenings with class teachers. We have not forgotten about this and we are currently investigating using 'School Cloud' to set up video appointments between parents and teachers. The plan is to organise these appointments for November. All being well, we will get the system set up this week and then write to you again regarding booking your video appointment.

Some of you may be aware that we had a safeguarding issue raised with Purple Mash before the summer holiday resulting in us deactivating the children's accounts pending a full and thorough investigation. I am happy to report that all safeguards were in place and no child's safety was compromised. All of the children's passwords have been changed and Purple Mash is now back up and running. Please can we take this opportunity to remind you to supervise your child while they're online; explore together, initiate (and continue) conversations about online safety, help your child identify adults who can help, be non-judgemental, and talk to your child about how their online actions can affect others. The following link, <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends/>, (Jessie & Friends: online safety education for 4-7s), is a series of three animations aims to give 4-7 year olds knowledge, skills and confidence to help them respond safely to risks they may encounter online, which you may find helpful.

Finally, I have received a number of complaints from local residents regarding the inconsiderate parking of parents (and staff) at the beginning and end of the school day. Please can I politely request that you consider our neighbours when deciding where to park at the beginning and end of the school day; ensuring that driveways, junctions and or gates are not blocked for example.

Thank you and, on a positive note to conclude, I would like to welcome Mrs. Gardner to Lawnside as our new Family Support Worker and Miss Mayes and Miss Jones as new Teaching Assistants. I would also like to congratulate Miss Aylott on her promotion from Midday Supervisor to Teaching Assistant. We are currently advertising for a Midday Supervisor to join our team - if you are interested, or know someone who may be interested in applying; the application form is available on our school website.

Yours sincerely



Cheryl Johnson
Head Teacher

