

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Brown

Lockdown 2020

Thank you for all your support during lockdown and for adapting so quickly to the new way of doing things: Purple Mash, Twinkl, Class Dojo, sending photos via Evidence Me and following the home learning plans we sent out or doing your own home learning. Whatever you have been doing your children will have been learning: at this age everything that happens to them is a learning event and will contribute to the person they will become.

We have really missed your children and seeing photos of what you have all been up to has been very important to us and has kept us going during some difficult times. As you know we stayed open throughout lockdown including school holidays and bank holidays to support key worker and vulnerable children, not just from Flagg Nursery School but also from local primary schools who did not have enough of their own staff who were fit to work. I am very proud of our staff team for doing this, even when they were anxious about catching the virus themselves and I feel very privileged to work with such a dedicated team.

The most important thing for our children right now is that they know they are loved and that they are safe and healthy. If these conditions are in place then they will be learning from everything around them.

Whatever decision you have made for the remainder of this term is the right decision for your child and for your family whether you have decided to send them back to nursery or to keep them at home until September.

Leavers 2020

We have been thinking about ways to help children with their transition to primary school this year and also about how to say goodbye as we cannot have our usual Leaver's assembly. With this in mind we have ordered every child leaving this year a special buddy bear to help with the transition. Some schools will be allowing the bears to go to school with the children and some won't but in any case they can come to Flagg or stay at home for now and we will be suggesting activities to do with them every week. They will come with a planning sheet but essentially the idea is that they will help your children deal with change and to express their fears and feelings. When they arrive I will bring them to your house if you have not returned to nursery this term along with your child's portfolio, report and a special medal. I will also bring our graduation gown and cap and take a graduation photo of your child if you would like one. I will wear gloves and an apron when handling everything and stay two metres away from your front door. The gown and hat will be sanitised between each child. Could I please ask that if you have a story sack at home you pass it to me when I drop off the buddy bear? We will wash them before they go out again.

We are adding some of the Reception teachers to class dojo so you may get a message from your child's new teacher.

We are currently preparing a leaver's powerpoint with a leaver's poem to share with you and your child. I will also be delivering a goodbye card, gift and the graduation photo if you asked for one at the very end of term. If you would like a final consultation on the phone or on Zoom then I will arrange this over the next few weeks. Mrs Capper and I will be calling the parents of all children who are not returning this term over the next few days.

Goodbye and Good Luck to all of our leavers. We wish you all the best in your new primary schools and look forward to seeing you at the 'Reception Children's Tea Party' when we are allowed to gather again. Look out for an invitation in the post!



ParentPay

Please ensure that all balances and payment items are paid in full by 31st July. This is particularly important for the families of children who are leaving as your accounts will no longer be active in September. Thank you.

Governors Section

I would like to say a special thank you to all of our Governors who have been extremely supportive and flexible during this time, attending extra virtual meetings to make important and unprecedented decisions about our school. Our chair of Governors, Ian Daniel, has always been at the end of the phone to support me throughout the lockdown and help make some extraordinary decisions, often daily. We would also like to say a fond Farewell to one of our Governors, Jenna Jackson, who has been on the Governing Body for four years. Some of Jenna's contributions have included supporting us with the new data protection regulations and being our data protection officer, overseeing the school inventory, supporting us with our budget and of course being very active at the Strawberry Fayre every year. We will certainly miss her and hope that she keeps in touch.

The governing body works with the head teacher to ensure that the school's budget is spent appropriately, to oversee educational standards and progress in school, to provide critical support with SEND (special educational needs and disabilities), safeguarding and health and safety and to ensure that the buildings and grounds are properly maintained. If you are interested in being a school Governor and would like to join our friendly and highly effective team then please let me know.

The Governors would like to thank the Friends of Flagg for running Tiddlypeeps on a voluntary basis so that we do not lose this valuable community group. We would also like to thank the Friends of Flagg for all their support with fundraising this year: In total with the Halloween disco and Chocolate Bingo, we raised over £500 which has been or will be used to pay for gifts for children when they leave, animal workshops and sports coaching amongst other things. A full breakdown of the school fund accounts is available on the website. Normally we would have had the Easter Bunny Drive and the Strawberry Fayre which would have raised more money for the little extras in school. To make up for this we will have a fundraiser as soon as we are able to hold gatherings of large groups.

Governors have started discussing the School Improvement Plan for 2020-21 and our draft targets will stay roughly the same as this year due to the interruption of the pandemic. These are to monitor and improve teaching and learning in three areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional development, continuing our work into resilience, well-being and good mental health in the wake of the COVID pandemic
- Communication and Language because we recognise that this is essential to high achievement throughout a child's school journey
- Outdoor learning including forest schools, making sure that all seven areas of the curriculum are taught outside as well as inside.

September Sessions

Those of you who will still be with us in September will receive a letter shortly about your September sessions. Please make sure that you have confirmed your place and returned your FE1 form before the end of term. I would like to clarify the funding arrangements: from the term after your child turns three everyone is entitled to 15 hours of free nursery funding. This equates to five mornings (9am until 12pm) or two and a half days (a full day will be from 9am until 3pm) or any other variation of sessions. Most parents are also eligible for a further 15 hours funding, as long as both parents work and each parent earns less than £100,000. Therefore if you would like your child to attend for more than 15 hours, it is worth applying for the extra funding, even if it is only 3 hours, thus making the time up to three full days. To apply you need to go to <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/> or www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Once you have successfully applied you will be given a code which you need to give to us along with your national insurance number. The funding needs to be in place the term before it is to be used so if you need the funding in September you need to apply before the end of August and preferably by 31st July. If you need any help then just call the school office.

I would like to respectfully ask that everyone who is entitled to 15 hours of funding to consider claiming the full 15 hours. Our financial stability is under threat after years of Government cuts followed by the COVID lockdown. If families who are entitled to funding do not claim it all then we may not be able to maintain current staffing levels and the outstanding provision that we have.

Dates for your diary

Friday 17th July

Wednesday 2nd September

Thursday 3rd September

Monday 14th September

Break up for Summer holiday

INSET day school closed to children, first aid training

Back to School for current children

New children start

Sarah Brown June 2020