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Friday, 1st September 2023

Start of Term Update – September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the new academic year. I hope that everyone has managed to have an enjoyable summer break, whatever you got up to. Although the weather did not make it feel particularly like 'summer', I do hope it has given you all the chance to refresh and recharge and spend some time with your families and friends.

I would like to give a warm welcome to all our new children and families that are joining us at Green Ridge this term, whether in Nursery, Reception or elsewhere in the school. Our school building is now completely full (and bulging!) with the use of our Design Technology room this year as an additional classroom until our building and extension is completed. Much work is going on behind the scenes currently with the project team, builders and designers so that work can begin on our additional eight classrooms and toilet block/changing rooms from the Spring term. We will share more detail and arrangements about this later in the Autumn term, before works begin and how this might affect the site use.

Today's letter is just a short update ahead of the term starting on Monday, and firstly a reminder to everyone that children are returning to school on Monday. Pupils in Nursery and Reception have already had separate information about specific start times and staggered start dates over the first few days back. Our weekly round-up newsletter will be sent to you next Friday as usual, but until then, hopefully this will tide us over.

Start and Finish Times

A reminder of our start and finish times can be found below. Please do familiarise yourself with the timings and locations and refer to the internal and external site plan layouts enclosed.

Pupils may wait outside on the playgrounds from 8.30am but pupils should not arrive at school before 8.30am. Classroom doors open at the times specified below. Children are allowed 10 minutes to come into the classroom and begin their early morning fluency practice in Maths. External doors should close at the time of registration. Any child who arrives at the door after this time will be directed to the school office where they will be marked as late. Staff are asked not to open external doors after the official school start time (either 8.45am for EYFS/KS1 or 8.50am for KS2) as the school day has started.

Year group	Location drop off and pick-up	Drop-off window/time	School starts	School finishes
Nursery – Acorns	Nursery front door	8.35-8.45am	8.45am	3.15pm
Please note: Children attending morning sessions should only be collected at 11.45am, those attending the lunch session should be collected at 12.15pm and pupils attending afternoon sessions are to start at 12.15pm (all via the main nursery entrance).				
YR – Birch and Willow YR – Hazel	EYFS front gate Nursery front door	8.35-8.45am	8.45am	3.15pm
Y1 – Beech Y1 – Elm Y1 – Lime	KS1 fire exit corridor Classroom door Classroom door			
Y2 – Oak and Plane	Classroom door			
Y3 – Alder and Cedar	Classroom door			
Y4 – Rowan Y4 – Ash	Classroom door Rear KS2 fire exit door	8.40-8.50am	8.50am	3.20pm
Y5 – Maple and Sycamore	UKS2 side gate			
Y6 – Aspen and Hawthorn	UKS2 side gate			

What should my child bring on Monday?

As a brief checklist for the first day back, please consider the following before you set off from home:

- ✓ Named water bottle
- ✓ Book bag (YR-Y2) or suitable sized rucksack (Y3-Y6)
- ✓ Lunchbox (if having packed lunch)
- ✓ PE kit
- ✓ Medications (to be handed to the school office by parent/carer)

Please just bear with us in the first few days of term as it is an extremely busy time with many parents/carers wanting to come to the office to ask questions, handover medication or return paperwork etc. We will have all hands-on deck, but we are a small admin team, so we ask for your patience at the start of the week. If possible, we will arrange to either call or email you back later in the day if we are unable to resolve your query there and then. We will always get back to you, and we appreciate your understanding at this busy time.

And finally...

There will be our usual flurry of start of term communications from next week, so please do keep an eye on your inbox although we are mindful of your feedback about not overwhelming you with so many messages. The start of term and the new year is always exceptionally busy for all staff, getting to know new parents/carers and families and making sure everything is in place that needs to be. Inevitably, there may be some minor glitches along the way, but if you do have any feedback for us, please remember to let a member of the team know. The senior leadership team and I will be around at the start and ends of each day, so please do come and say hello or pass on any comments/feedback if you have any.

Enjoy the last weekend of the holidays – see you all on Monday!

Yours faithfully,

A. A. Wanford

Mr. Aaron Wanford
Headteacher

