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6th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to what is going to be another, hugely successful academic year.

At the end of last academic year, we had much to celebrate including; record results including those children achieving the standard of 'greater depth' in all schools, Forces School Awards, Ripley SIAMS inspections, revocation of the directive academy orders, National Attendance Awards as well as many other, individual school successes.

This will be no different as we strive for further success and to significantly impact your children's outcomes, thus life chances. We are due Ofsted at Kettlesing any day, of which we are more than prepared and looking forward to sharing the super education offer we provide for our children and the continued work from the previous inspections in our federation. In addition to this, we work towards being recognised as the first, ever Federation of Sanctuary recognising our education and awareness of asylum seeking refugee families and continuing to ensure our schools are places of sanctuary for all: growing together, guided by love.

I am sure your children will have come home excited about their classrooms, lessons and all things 'school' as we return and that you, as parents and carers will continue to support your child's education and the tireless work of our PTAs.

Stationery

Moving forward we are requesting that, after half term your child brings in their own pencil case to school. You are welcome to send this in from this point however in order to give our families the opportunity to purchase, we are giving a half term's notice. As ever, if you have any financial concerns then please do contact us in confidence. The items your child will are require is as follows:

- Small pencil case (not large and with no additional keyrings attached)
- 2 x pencils (no scented with no rubbers attached as these affect pencil grip)
- 1x pencil sharpener
- 1x rubber (no scented or large required)
- 1x 15cm ruler (clear advisable)
- 1x glue stick

In addition, if your child has any pencil crayons (not ink or wax) they are welcome to bring these in, in the same or separate case -a basic set of colours is all that is required. Please do note that there is no expectation to purchase expensive items, basic, own brand stationary is all that is required and we do not want these to be a learning distraction.

Of course, we will have limited supplies in school therefore your child will always have what they require as we do not want any barriers to school life.

Snacks and School Meals

We would like to take this opportunity to politely remind parents that a free healthy snack of fruit/vegetables is offered to all Class 1 children at morning break, along with milk for all receptions up to the age of 5, and thereafter if you have signed up to the Cool Milk Scheme.

Children in KS2 may bring a healthy snack in from home as they are not provided with free snacks from KS2.

In light of some feedback from Reception parents, we are happy for children in class 1 to bring in a snack from home going forward, however it should be one item only, not a bag of snacks and be one of the following, in line with snack guidelines for KS2 children:

- Fruit (if providing grapes please pre-cut these lengthwise)
- Vegetables (carrots should be in batons not rounds or whole carrots)
- A healthy cereal bar/oat cakes/rice cakes (should not contain nuts)
- A yogurt
- Cheese and crackers

Crisps, biscuits, chocolate etc. should not form part of the morning snack provision.

A reminder that sweets, fizzy drinks and fruit juice are not permitted at any time. We understand that some children do not drink water unless flavoured, so we are more than happy for parents to add a small amount of undiluted squash to water bottles (not diluted fruit juice).

We are very lucky that all of our schools have wonderful caterers now who cook delicious, warm meals for our children. If your child is on packed lunches, please do consider a school meal at the superb price of £3.20 per day and contact admins to discuss further.

Items from Home

A polite reminder that children should not bring items from home into school. This includes, but is not exclusive to, items such as toys, electronics (including smart watches), crafting, swap cards, cosmetics/toiletries including lip balms, hand cream and sanitisers.

Medicines

If your child requires medicine in school, a request to administer medicine must be completed before leaving any medicine with a member of staff. Please note we cannot administer non-prescription medicines, and items such as topical creams and throat sweets are not permitted in school.

Pickup from School

A polite reminder that if you are arranging for anyone other than those listed on your child's emergency contact list then you must contact the school office with a password in advance.

Uniform and PE

As you are aware, our uniform list is on our websites and at each one of our schools, and there is a wide selection of excellent-quality used items available through some of the schools PTA. Our sustainability and change pupil leaders are passionate about their generation positively impacting the planet and so again, please do contact admins/PTA to enquire about our used stocks.

Reception children are invited to come into school in their PE kits on PE days until October half term and we would kindly request that you work with your children on changing and dressing to support us in school. All other year groups will come in uniform and change as normal.

Curriculum

Teaching and support staff have worked tirelessly over the summer term and break to ensure our worldclass curriculum model is even more outstanding. Our children are growing up in an ever-changing world and we owe it to them to continually re-model our curriculum so that it is fluid, fit-for-purpose and so that we give your children the knowledge and skills they need to be successful as future, global citizens. All learning letters and curriculum information is on our new and much-improved website:

https://rbk.n-yorks.sch.uk/

We look forward to seeing some fantastic class and home work this year.

Once again, we achieved so many successes last academic year and very much look forward to building on this further, as a federation community.

Warmest Regards

Miss Kirkman Executive Headteacher