

Twiss Green Community Primary School

Achieving, Caring and Growing Together



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Dear Families,

Welcome to the autumn term! I hope you have all had a lovely summer break and have been able to create some wonderful memories with your children. We have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming everyone back into school this week and getting to know our new starters and their families. The children have settled into their new classes beautifully and as always, we are very proud of Team TG!

As we look forward to the new term and year ahead, I wanted to share a few reminders, updates and expectations for this academic year with you:

Uniform:

The children all look very smart in their uniforms this week. Please can I remind families that children are expected to follow our uniform policy (which can be found on our website), including wearing the correct kit on PE days and wearing school shoes (not trainers) unless it is a PE day. We did notice that several children were not wearing the correct PE kit during the summer term and ask that all families make sure that their child comes to school dressed in the appropriate items. If children arrive wearing incorrect items of uniform, parents/carers will be contacted and asked to bring in the correct uniform for their child. Our PTFA hold regular pre-loved uniform sales and pre-loved items can also be requested from the school office.

Birthdays:

On your child's birthday, they are very welcome to come into school wearing their own clothes (appropriate for school) as a birthday treat if they would like to. This means that we are all able to spot a birthday child and wish them many happy returns! If your child's birthday falls in the school holidays, or on a weekend, they can wear their own clothes in school on the Friday closest to their birthday.



Snack and Friday Treats:

Previously, children who wish to bring their own snacks into school for playtime have been asked to bring in a small, healthy snack Monday to Thursday and have been allowed to bring a 'treat' for snack on a Friday. However, we have made the decision to change Friday treats from weekly to once per half term, starting from the week beginning 9th September. Treat snacks will only be allowed on the day we break up for each half term and we ask that healthy snacks are provided on all other days. We have found that the treats the children bring in on a Friday often mean that they are not hungry at lunchtime and don't eat their meals. We hope that bringing a small treat (small bag of chocolate buttons, small Kit Kat etc) once per half term will help to support the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with fruit/vegetables for their snack free of charge and children from Year 3 upwards can order school snack of toast and milk if they wish.

Water Bottles:

Children have access to their water bottles throughout the school day and are able to refill them when needed. Please make sure that your child has water in their bottle, as juice is not permitted in school. Exceptions may be made for medical or SEND reasons. If this applies to your child, please speak to their class teacher.

Attendance and Punctuality:

A reminder that if your child is absent for any reason, please contact the school office to let us know the reason for their absence by 9am. Children are expected to arrive at school on time, but if you are running late for any reason, please bring your child directly to the school office.

Forest School:

As many of you will know, we introduced Forest School last year and were able to offer sessions to most classes. This year, we feel it would be better to focus Forest School on two year groups (Year 1 and Year 5), who will each have weekly sessions. If this model works, we will repeat it every year, with the aim of all children being able to have a year of Forest School in KS1 and then again in KS2. This will allow them to develop their Forest School skills (problem solving, team building, knowledge and understanding of risk and the outdoors etc) in depth across a year and work in line with the changing seasons. The children will also be able to explore other curriculum areas such as geography, art and science relevant to Year 1 and Year 5 through Forest School activities. We know that this year's Year 6 children have missed out on this, so will make sure they receive some Forest School sessions later on this year.



OPAL:

Last year, we also introduced OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) at lunchtimes to enhance and support our children's play. This involved sourcing more resources to use outside, developing different areas focused on certain types of play and making use of the full school grounds by allowing the children to wear wellies to access the field in wet weather. We are still very much on our OPAL journey and will continue to develop it this year. This will include inviting family members into school to play alongside their child later on in the year. Please can we ask that all children bring a named pair of wellies into school, ideally by the end of next week (13th September) if possible, so that we can begin using the field again at lunchtimes. We do have some spare wellies in school, so please do let us know if we can help with providing a pair for your child.

Makaton Sign of the Week:

This year, we will all be learning a Makaton sign in school each week. Next week, our sign of the week will be 'to learn.' We will share our sign for the following week on Facebook on a Friday and will also share a YouTube video link to help you practise at home if you would like to!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7HUVhBbtrc>

Our school newsletters will continue to be sent out fortnightly via School Ping this year, with the first newsletter this term due to be sent on the 13th September. Diary dates will be shared regularly on newsletters, so please do keep an eye out for them. Do also make sure you check our Facebook page regularly for updates about what the children have been learning and to see some photographs of their adventures in school!

This week, you will have received a letter from your child's class teacher which includes important information such as your child's class routines and curriculum. Hopefully, this will help to answer any questions you may have about what the autumn term will look like for your child. However, if you have any further questions, please ask your child's teacher at the start/end of the school day. Alternatively, email the school office team, who will forward your query on to the relevant class teacher if they are unable to answer it themselves. Our door is always open, so please don't hesitate to make an appointment via the school office if you have a query or concern that might require a longer conversation with your child's class teacher, our SENCO (Mrs Milward), or myself.

I am sure that 2024/25 will be another school year filled with exciting learning opportunities and memorable moments - I am looking forward to seeing what it has in store for us!

Kind regards,

Mrs Hughes



