



Northchapel Primary School

Growing kind and curious children who aspire to succeed.

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we near the end of the academic year, we wish to inform you about the steps that the governors, senior leaders and staff have taken to make our channels of communication clearer. Attached you will find a new Communication Policy signed off by the Governing Body this term. Please take time to read the policy and new expectations of all stakeholders moving forward from today.

We would like to draw your attention to managing parent Whatsapp groups and our class representatives. We have taken this action to minimise the disruption to all parents, class reps, staff and governors by the constant use of these chat groups and respect their right to peaceful evenings and weekends. Therefore, the chat groups will now become noticeboards only and communication is then only to come through designated channels as stated in the policy.

Whilst preparing to send this out to you, it has come to our attention that there has been much discussion about the planned events of the end of term and some groups of parents are not happy about how we intend to operate the school on Monday in particular.

End of terms are always a busy time, the summer term in particular! Staff, governors, PTA and volunteers are all full on organising and bringing the academic year to a close. That often includes many events that *may not include everyone*, including children. In this half term alone, we have planned and provided many extra-curricular opportunities for your children to participate in: -

Sharing assemblies; swimming; Forest School; sports days; residential trips; numerous Inter school sporting events; swimming gala; educational visits and visitors; after – school clubs; music events; summer concert; transition events; sponsored swims and stomps; village fete; open evening and an Art and Photography Exhibition; leavers party; leavers assembly and last but not least the return of duathlon and triathlon.

All of these events take so much time and planning and a lot of staff, parents and volunteers *own time*, beyond the working day to provide these opportunities. We are a small village school, with very few staff expected to operate at a large school level, and sometimes it appears that goes either unnoticed, unappreciated or not supported by our parents, which sometimes can leave staff feeling very demotivated! To those parents of Caterpillar Class who have complained directly or indirectly,



we of course feel saddened to hear of comments such as, what a waste of a day! We could have had cheaper holidays! Why is my child not participating in anything? Staff and the School always aim to do the best for all children, juggling so many things, especially in this busy end of year period.

Everyone connected with the school including school staff would like the benefit of cheaper holidays, not just parents! We do not set term dates; however, we have in fact finished a day early to give you that very opportunity a day ahead of other local schools.

Monday had been planned with our usual leaver's assembly which all of the children participate in whether up front or as a spectator – they will all be singing and saying goodbye to their buddies. We then planned an early afternoon of fun and a chance for children to cheer on their peers and aspire to join in when they are older as we have always done, just as other schools do.

Unfortunately, we have had a few members of staff who have suffered an un-expected illness earlier this term, which disrupted the summer schedule for many children. We had to cancel the summer concert and naturally, children and parents were disappointed. We then looked at rescheduling as many events as possible. Despite a broken scapula and neck vertebrae, Mrs Edwards endeavoured to make sure that Year R and Dragonfly still had their Forest School sessions, which children love! She still attended both residential trips as a volunteer so that children could continue safely. With such a full on timetable and busy weeks, we together with Mrs James, could only reschedule the Romeo and Juliet performance for the last day. The concert will become a 'Back to School Concert', early next term and our outgoing Y6's will be invited to return as well.

Despite these endeavours, this seems not to have suited all parents so as a result, we have now shortened the Monday events so that Caterpillar Class will still attend the leavers assembly and the performance, which will both be no longer than 25 minutes each. The picnic followed by spectating and learning about good sportsmanship at the Triathlon/Duathlon, during which children will still be encouraged to sing and chant, cheer on, even have a run around the track themselves for fun. We considered not having them to watch their friends in Romeo and Juliet or the sports, but in our small school so many of the younger ones know the older ones and are keen to watch them, even if they cannot fully understand the context. During the periods around these events, they will enjoy games and fun with Mrs Moore and Mrs Gibbs back in their classroom. We hope that you appreciate that we have taken steps to address your concerns, but we also trust that you understand why sometimes, as a small school things happen for a very good reason and by addressing these issues collectively, you now have a better and supportive understanding of some of the issues raised.

Finally, I would like to mention that I am so proud of the team around us; the staff, governors, volunteers including parents, who remain so supportive and go above and beyond for all of your children, thank you TEAM! Have a wonderful summer break – you deserve it!

Yours sincerely



Deborah Coggin
Headteacher

