

Dear Parents and Carers,

School welcomed back pupils this Wednesday for the start of the 2023-2024 academic year. Always an exciting time as we embark on a new year, energised after the Summer break, to continue our learning journey together. For some pupils the start of the year will represent a significant change. This may be a new school, new class teachers, starting accredited courses, planning for their next steps as they enter Year 11 and Year 13. This can bring with it some nerves, worries and anxieties. To support pupils during the Summer Term, Year 6 pupils had the opportunity to access transition days and existing pupils moved to their new classes for the last two weeks of the Summer Term to become familiar with their new environments. Pupils, despite the changes, have made an excellent start, settling in to their new routines. It takes time and there are usually questions and reminders to make sure that pupils are clear on the expectations in a Secondary High School. For example:

Uniform: School has a very flexible uniform policy. We do not use clothing that is embroidered with the school logo. All uniform items can be purchased from affordable local high street stores or online. We do however insist that pupils wear black shoes / smart black trainers. Presentation is important and sets the tone for learning.

Snack: Pupils accessing free school meals are entitled to a lunch. This funding does not cover the cost of a snack. Weekly contributions of £2.50 per week can be paid into your child's Arbor account to provide a healthy snack. If you would rather, you have the option to send in a snack that meets your child's requirements. Some pupils have a long journey so a healthy snack is beneficial and also develops food preparation, social, hygiene and communication skills as pupils take snack as a class group.

Breaks: Break time is an important part of the day. It provides pupils with opportunity to be active, meet with peers, exercise, talk to staff and play. Sometimes pupils engage in boisterous play. Not everyone enjoys this, so I remind pupils of our 'no touching' rule. There is a high staff presence during breaks in order to supervise pupils. This will be the focus of my Monday assembly next week.

Holiday requests during term time: It is important that pupil attendance is high in order for pupils to maximise their progress and potential. Therefore, unless exception circumstances can be presented an absence for a holiday will not be authorised by school and may result in a fixed penalty notice of £60 being issued. This rises to £120 if not paid within a set deadline. This applies to holidays only.

You may have picked up from the media the issues around schools and public buildings that have been built using 'reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete' (RAAC). I posted a message on the school website confirming that Greenbank School was not built using this material. A survey was completed in February 2022 confirming this.

We have enjoyed the benefits of the lovely weather this week, which is likely to break over the weekend. Have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Mr M. McCann
Head Teacher



Headteacher: Mr M. McCann