



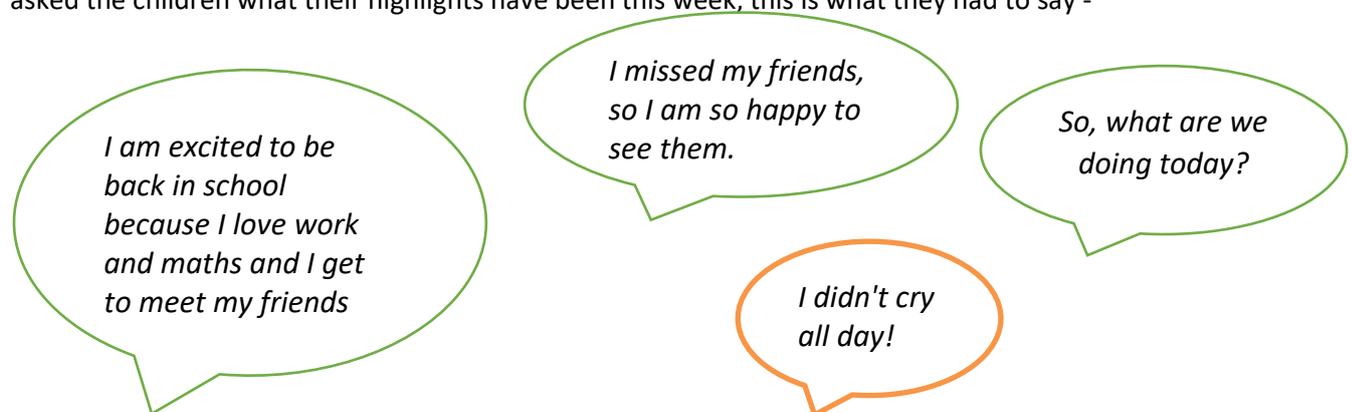
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Headteacher Mrs Julia Humphrey

11th September 2020

Dear Parents

Our first week back in school has flown by so quickly. The children and staff have shown us how amazingly adaptable they can be as we have managed new routines and ways of working. Having asked the children what their highlights have been this week, this is what they had to say -



Thank you for making me feel so welcome. It has been lovely speaking with a number of you while I stand on the gate each morning and afternoon.

Update over the COVID-19 Risk Assessment – following our weekly review

Thank you all for patience each morning and afternoon as we have encouraged a slightly staggered start to the day. This appears to generally work well. As our reception children are always so keenly lined up before 9am, we shall endeavour to bring them onto the playground to be met by their teachers at 9am next week.

If we continue to see the smooth start we have had this week, we may opt to bring all children in line with one arrival time from Monday 21st, making use of the large playground space we have for each class to line up separately from each other. More details will follow next week.

May we ask that with the latest government advice, parents continue to be respectful of space and the numbers within a group gathered as you wait before and after school.

We also ask that you refrain from allowing your child to use the play equipment which is along the side of the playground after school. This equipment is thoroughly cleaned after each use during the day, with its last clean taking place after lunchtime. We do not have time to clean it further after children and parents have left the site. Thank you.

A copy of the latest risk assessment can be found on the school website. This will continue to be reviewed and amended weekly to reflect any local (LA) or national changes in guidance and also, as a result of decisions made at school level. We shall send a weekly parent newsletter each Friday, initially, to keep you informed of any changes to our procedures.

Addendum to the Behaviour Policy

The Government has asked all schools to provide an addendum to the school behaviour policy which sets out additional expectations during the period of COVID-19. This is included in our risk assessment and also the school development plans. An example of an additional behaviour would be the expectation that children wash their hands when asked, use the hand sanitiser at the point of arrival and departure.

The attached addendum has been reviewed by all staff and also signed off by the IEB.

Academy update

We continue to work with members of St Benets Academy to enable a smooth transfer at the point of academisation. This week, Mr S Nixon was welcomed onto the IEB. Mr Nixon is currently the Director of School Improvement for St Benet's MAT supporting school improvement across the trust. Prior to that Sam was Headteacher at Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery in Wymondham.

School Improvement and Development Plans

We have replicated the parent board which now features in the foyer outside on the notice board. Last week I indicated our intention of arranging some opportunities this term for parents to engage with school improvement, participate in forums and support their child's learning. These are likely to be virtual sessions and details about how to join in will follow closer to the time. However, for now, we have set the first two dates for before half term –

- Phonics for EYFS and KS1 – Thursday 1st October
- Maths Café – Tuesday 13th October

Sports Grant and PPG

On the school website (by mid-September) you will find copies of the plan for the spending of the Sports Premium Grant and the Pupil Premium Grant.

People involved in the life of our school this week

This week we have had

Ms Avenal our SENCo in school for a day. She met with two of the class teachers to build a profile of individual and class need.

Mr Brewster from the Teaching School – spent an afternoon with Mr Dekker so that they could look at maths planning and the curriculum.

Mrs Bray from the Teaching School – spent a day with Mrs Humphrey looking at plans for school improvement.

Mrs Kett met with Mrs Humphrey over the plans for improvement and they made a safeguarding check together.

The first few weeks

I hope that you have discovered the return to school passport and managed to spend some time filling this in. It will really help us to understand how you and your child used the lockdown period to discover new skills and interest. Once they are completed, please bring them back so that the teachers can enjoy reading about everything you got to do and after this, I shall take a look. Please continue to check the school website and Dojo for information about what we are getting up to in each class.

Premier Sport sessions

In line with most schools, we shall not be able to run the premier sport sessions just yet. We have agreed with them to speak again in October and shall keep you informed.

School dinners

Please remember to check the weekly menu which can be found on the website. The kitchen staff wishes to remind you to complete and return your menu choices before Thursday so that they are able to place the food orders and plan ahead. Thank you

Collective Worship theme and focus

This half term our collective worship focus is Thankfulness. We will use the words from 1 Thessalonians 5.16 'Always be thankful' to help us consider and thank the people who help us, remember to say thank you, give thanks even when things are difficult and count our blessings. Each week we shall hold a whole school collective worship via the wonders of zoom. Between our times together as a whole school, each class will be asked to reflect and consider how they can apply their learning each day while in school and at home. We hope to share some of their ideas with you each week.

Wishing you a lovely weekend, hopefully with some sunshine.

Mrs Humphrey
Interim Headteacher