



4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### **Welcome back!**

I am incredibly pleased to have now welcomed all families back to Iron Acton. It has been great to see the way in which the children have settled and the excellent attitudes to learning they have had so far.

Thank you for your support and patience as we get to grips with new systems. We are continually reviewing these and inevitably some small problems will occur – we will do our best to deal with these as they arise. There are a few points of clarification in the box below.

I hope you have had the chance to see our school calendar for the year. There is, of course, a chance that some of our plans may need to change but we will try to make sure everything goes ahead as planned to ensure the children do not miss out. If necessary we aim to do things differently rather than cancel them altogether.

Please do keep talking to us. I know this may be more difficult when some parents are not on the playground as much as they may have been in the past. If you need to speak to your child's class teacher, please email the school office and we will make arrangements as soon as possible.

Mike Riches

### **Points of clarification**

Parents of all children are welcome to accompany their child to and from the playground each day. However, those in Buzzards and Golden Eagles Classes are encouraged to allow their child to walk up the hill on their own in the morning and down again at the end of the day. If you choose to meet your child anywhere other than the playground at the end of the day, we ask that you make sure your child knows what the arrangements are.

For children in Buzzards Class, Mr Brown will not be able to accompany children to the bottom of the hill but there will always be a member of staff at the bottom of the hill to ensure the children are safe.

At the end of each day, children in Golden Eagles Class will be sent down the stairs at the back of the building, through the door onto the playground and down the path.

The pick-up point for children in Barn Owls and Falcons Classes is at the bottom of the new ramp at the top end of the playground. We ask that you do not come up the ramp as the space is not large enough to enable you to stay far enough apart from each other.

PE kits need to be worn on the days that your child has PE starting from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September until further notice. This does not apply to children in Barn Owls Class – teachers will make PE arrangements clear to you when necessary. Each class will have 2 PE sessions per week.

### **New classroom**

Hopefully you will now be aware that our new classrooms are finished and in use. We are thrilled that this is the case and feel the project has been completed to a high standard. Please do have a look (from the outside for now!) when you are next on the playground.

We have also had other summer holiday work carried out included a whole new boiler and heating system and LED lighting throughout. This will really help us to be more energy efficient and to look after the environment.

### **Breakfast Club and After School Club**

Both of these services are now up and running and ready for use by any children across the school when needed. If you need any information or if you need to register your child please contact the school office.

To comply with government guidance, children will be kept in small consistent groups which reflect their class bubble.

### **Catch up funding**

You may have heard that schools will receive additional funding to support children as they catch up with any lost learning that may have occurred over recent months.

As a result we have asked Mr Shore (who will also be covering Ms Bagnall's maternity leave from the end of November) to start working with us straight away. He will work with children in Buzzards and Golden Eagles Class for 3 days each week for this term. This will enable us to teach each year group in these classes separately for maths and to provide additional responsive intervention. Mr Shore will teach Golden Eagles Class during the afternoons meaning Ms Bagnall is able to provide further responsive intervention where required.

We have also increased or changed the way other members of staff work across the school to provide further support and capacity where required.

All support will be targeted in areas where the school considers there to be most need.

### **Iron Acton Film Club**

As some of you will be aware, during the autumn and winter months we normally run a free children's film once a month at Iron Acton Parish Hall. Unfortunately, due to COVID19, we are unable to run this event at present. We have undertaken a risk assessment and we do not feel we would be able to host the film shows safely, as by it's very nature our "community cinema" would make social distancing very difficult to implement. However, we intend to review the situation regularly and we will be in touch via your school newsletter as soon as we re-start the film club.

Until then, we hope everyone stays safe and we look forward to seeing everyone again in the near future.

### **A message from Father Malcolm, our parish priest**

An All Age Family Service takes place each month on the second Sunday at St James Iron Acton at 10am, beginning 13th September. All families are welcome to come along to these services.

The church will also be holding its next 'Messy Church' online on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September. This is an opportunity for families to take part in various fun activities, reflections for children, songs a whole lot of fun! Please follow the link to join in. <https://fromesidemessychurch.wordpress.com/>

The church is also offering a listening ear for any parent who may be in need of support or feeling anxious during the current pandemic. Jo Strange (who works at the local church and is also a school governor) is available for this support and can be contacted on 07854710507 or at [jofourleaf@gmail.com](mailto:jofourleaf@gmail.com)

### **Face Masks**

It is not compulsory for parents to wear facemasks in the school grounds but if you feel you would be happier to wear one then please do so. It is entirely your choice.

### PE Timetable for Term 1

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>11:00 – 12:00</b>		Barn Owls			Falcons (cricket)
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>			Barn Owls	Buzzards (Swift sports)	Buzzards (cricket)
<b>14:00 – 15:00</b>	Falcons		Golden Eagles	Swift Sports interventions	Golden Eagles (cricket)

#### **Allergies and medication**

Please let Mrs Hares or Mrs Parry in the school office know if your child's allergies/medical conditions have changed over the summer. Thank you.