7th September 2015

Dear Parent and Carers

Welcome back to Orrets Meadow and welcome all our new members! We have taken in our largest number of newcomers ever, 21 pupils, and will be the fullest we have ever been on the first day of the school year. All of the children have settled into their new classes and appear happy. Routines will take time to embed and relationships need to be built between peers and adults, but once these are in place rapid progress will be seen academically, socially and emotionally.

**School bags**

Please ensure your school bag is in school every day. It is important so we can put homework and letters in it. If you need a replacement they are £5 each. If you have any concerns regarding your child you can either write a note in your child's homework diary, give a message to the escort or phone school on 678 8070. Communication is key to your child succeeding at Orrets Meadow.

**Homework**

Homework will be given out every night. It lasts roughly fifteen minutes and consists of reading and a probe sheet. Occasionally you may get some Maths homework but this will always be on something they have covered in class. If your child does not complete their homework and have their book signed by an adult then they have to stay in the following day and do their homework at homework club. Please support your child making maximum progress by ensuring they do their homework. Any problems please contact your class teacher.

**Bugclub**

Last year we have spent some of our Pupil Premium on a web based reading scheme called Bug club. This enables children to have access to ebooks at school and at home at their level. To access your child’s account go to www.activelearnprimary.co.uk.

**Username** – their first name eg. sam (if more than one sam, add first initial of second name eg. samb)

**Password** – cat

**School code** – pa9p

A short demonstration will be shown at the 'Meet the Teacher' meeting on Thursday 24th September at 6pm, where parents will have a chance to meet their child's new teacher, ask questions about class and school and hear about transition to secondary school if they are in Year 5 or 6.

**Holidays**

Please may I remind you holidays in term time will not be authorised without an exceptional reason. Your child is at Orrets a Meadow because they are working below their age related expectations, so they need to be in school every day. The Government has lowered the threshold so that any pupil with attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence and must be referred to the Education Social Worker. Please try to make all appointments after school or in the holidays.

**PTO**

**Medication including inhalers**

Please make sure school is aware of any medication pupils are taking in school time. Forms need to be filled in and medicine kept locked away. Staff will administer medicine, including Paracetemol, however we are unable to administer Ibuprofen. Please inform school if your child needs an inhaler in school time as it needs to be kept onsite. An emergency inhaler is available for pupils who use an inhaler, however a form needs to be filled in to use it. PLEASE LET SCHOOL KNOW IF YOUR CHILD USES AN INHALER.

**Mobile phones/tablets**

Pupils are allowed to take mobile phones and tablets onto the buses to keep them occupied on the school journey. They are used at their own risk to loss and damage. All equipement is handed into school as they arrive and given back to them as the go home. Any camera devices need to be covered with a plaster for the safety and protection of the other pupils.

**Snacks**

Breakfast snacks and hot chocolate are on sale for 20p every morning when the children arrive. Fruits and breadsticks are available to buy for 20p at breaktime. Your children is responsible for looking after their snack money.

**Dinner Money**

Lunch is £2.30 a day. It is more efficient to pay on the Monday dinner money for the week, which is £11.50 if the child is having lunch every day. All money should be passed to the escort who then passes it to the member of staff meeting the buses. Please do not put large amounts of money in school bags.

**Dates for the diary**

**23rd Sept** – Classes 3, 6 and 7 Barnstondale Teambuilding day

**24th Sept** – 6pm – Meet the Teacher meeting at Orrets – PLEASE ALL ATTEND

**2nd Oct** – IEPs will be sent home

**6th Oct** – Thumbs up Education programme starts for classes 6, 7

**7th Oct** – Music Day – Classes 1, 2, 3

**8th Oct** – Bikeability – Classes 6, 7 (They will need a bike and helmet to bring in)

**15th Oct** – Bikeability – Classes 6, 7

**23rd Oct** – Pen portraits for each child will go home

**23rd Oct** – School finishes for half term

More activities and events will be added as the term progresses.

Please look at our school website at <http://orrets-meadow.eschools.co.uk> for other information on school.

Thanks for all your support. If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact me.

Mrs Duncan