7th September 2016

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, 26 pupils, and will be the most full 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.

We are pleased to announce our minibus has arrived and once staff are trained to drive it, over the next week or so, pupils will be going out of school on lots of enrichment activities.

**Uniform**

Please can you make sure your child’s uniform has their name in it. After one day we already have two lost jumpers! Shoes must be black and jewellery must not be worn to school for health and safety reasons.

**PE Kits**

Please ensure you child has a PE kit in school every day. We encourage pupils to keep it into school until the holidays, when it is sent home to be washed. Pupils need a white t-shirt, dark shorts and trainers/pumps. All items must be named.

**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.

**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.

**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**

Again this year we are spending some of our Pupil Premium on the web based reading scheme ‘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 22nd 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.

Your child will also receive a username and password to use Mathletics at home. Details will be sent home shortly.

**Holidays**

Please may I remind you holidays in term time will not be authorised without an exceptional reason. Your child is at Orrets 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.

**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 if prescribed by the doctor. 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 equipment 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.

**PTA**

Please come along on Tuesday 4th October at 4pm to join our PTA. It’s a great chance to meet other parents and to help school raise money.

**Dates for the diary**

**22nd Sept** – 6pm – Meet the Teacher meeting at Orrets – PLEASE ATTEND

**13th Sept** – Thumbs up Education programme starts for classes 6, 7

**30th Sept** – IEPs and pen portraits will be sent home

**4th Oct** – PTA meeting at 4pm

**12th Oct** – 9.30 –10.30 – coffee morning – all welcome – Michelle King leads this

**14th Oct** – Bikeability – All Year 6 pupils (They will need a bike and helmet to bring in)

**21st Oct** – Bikeability – All Year 6 pupils

**21st 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