



Edenfield C E Primary School



3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome back all of the children and you, their families, this week. Even better, we have been delighted to return to many of our usual arrangements and routines. For example, the children are no longer sitting in rows and can work in groups at larger tables; the bubble system is no longer required so normal lunchtime and playtime arrangements have resumed. Furthermore, for the first time in eighteen months we gathered as a school for whole school worship. This felt such a special and momentous event; it was really quite an emotional moment to have the school gathered as a whole family again and long may this continue!

The children have been fantastic in school, they are all busy working hard and impressing their new teachers. Class 4 do not have a new teacher but they have still impressed Mr Cartridge nonetheless. Behaviour across school, and during playtimes, has been exemplary – well done everyone!

We extend a special welcome to our new children in Class Reception who all arrived with big smiles and have enjoyed meeting new friends, and exploring their classroom and the wider school environment. They have already learnt so many new routines and are carrying these out brilliantly.

The teachers have been busy booking a schedule of education school visits for the year and you will soon be receiving letters about the trips for your child and their class for the autumn term. These will include:

- Delamere Forest
- Quarry Bank Mill
- Stockport Eco centre
- Yorkshire Christian Camp adventure day
- Bolton Museum
- Brockholes Nature Reserve

Harvest Festival will take place in Church on Friday 1st October led by Key Stage 1 and parents and carers are invited to attend. Further detail to follow nearer the time. The church will also be hosting a ***Festival of Favourite Things*** and the school will be creating a display for the stairs to the gallery area. The festival will run from Thursday 30th September until Sunday 3rd October.

Please see below for some important notices and reminders

Toast

From Monday 6th September, we will return to the previous system for buying and serving toast. Children from Year 1 upwards will go the dining hall at their designated time to buy toast for themselves. Toast costs 20p per slice. In Class Reception, we serve the toast to the children and ask parents who would like toast for their child to

pay in advance each half term. The cost for this half term is £5.40. Please send payment with your child in a named, sealed envelope for the attention of the school office. For the first half term we will serve toast only and then from November onwards, we hope to include a wider range of snacks as before.

Covid19

You should have all now received a letter with information on the most recent and up to date procedures for self-isolation, and the steps to take if your child develops symptoms, or is identified as a close contact. Please keep this guidance for future reference. Whilst many of the restrictions have been lifted, I would like to reassure parents and carers that we will continue to take specific precautions to minimise the spread of infection. In summary, these control measures include:

- Ensuring good hygiene for everyone. Frequent and thorough hand cleaning will remain regular practice. We will continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly with soap and water, or hand sanitiser.
- Managing respiratory hygiene - The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important with designated yellow bins in every classroom for tissue waste.
- Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes. We will continue to apply an enhanced cleaning schedule and this will include regular cleaning of areas and equipment (for example, twice per day), with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces. Classrooms and communal areas are deep cleaned daily and additional cleaning staff will continue to clean the school.
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated whilst ensuring a comfortable teaching environment is maintained.
- Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 (see letter dated 2nd September).
- Asymptomatic testing - all staff and volunteers will continue to take lateral flow tests twice weekly.

Family worship

In line with the advice on the need for effective ventilation, we have taken the decision to continue to host family worship online for the first half term. As you will be aware, when we gather on a Friday afternoon for this event, it does become extremely hot and uncomfortable, especially during the warmer months. The children also have restricted space in order to create a 'stage' area for the performing class. We do hope to resume this eventually as we know you enjoy seeing the children present and perform in person. On the other hand, the online presentation does allow additional parents and family members to watch who may not be able to come in person so it does have some advantages. A letter will be sent home next week with the dates your child's class will host family worship during the autumn term. We do have four family church services planned for the autumn term and parents and carers will be invited to these as there is plenty of additional seating in the upstairs gallery. The services are as follows:

- Harvest (1st October)
- Education Friday (22nd October)
- Remembrance Service (11th November)
- Christmas Service (17th December)

We will also be making suitable arrangements so that Key Stage 1 parents can attend the Nativity in December. In summary, there will be increasing opportunities for parents and carers to join us for special events as the year progresses.

SEN Support

I am delighted to inform you that we have been able to fund an additional SEN teacher for this academic year. Mrs Parkinson, an experienced SENCo, who was working on supply with us during the summer term will stay for another year to deliver 1-1 SEN support across school. This means alongside Mrs Ashworth we will provide the equivalent of six mornings of additional SEN teaching. If your child is identified for this support you will be notified next week. Mrs Parkinson and Mrs Ashworth will also provide class cover in the afternoons.

School bags

As a headteacher, I want nothing more than a positive start to the school year and for this to continue. I want parents, pupils and staff to be happy and reassured that we only ever make decisions based on everyone's best interests, specifically the children's best interests. Thank you to all those who followed the guidance and sent the children with book bags or book bag equivalents this week. I am clearly concerned that some parents believe the guidance was not clear regarding bags. Perceptions will vary and I thought it was clear, especially in the light of the misunderstanding last year which I was very keen to avoid. A small number of pupils have been sent with rucksacks as the length and height dimensions are in line with the size of a book bag. However, the advantage to a book bag style is that they lay flat so can be stored in drawers or a plastic storage container in the classroom. Rucksacks, however small, are bulky in depth and cannot be stored in drawers. Our school population has grown rapidly over the last few years and whilst we are blessed with spacious classrooms, communal storage areas and cloakroom facilities are very cramped. We have no choice but to store bags in classes to avoid belongings falling on the floor, getting broken or lost. Furthermore, we want to keep the school neat and tidy so it is a pleasant learning environment for the children. Therefore, I must stress that rucksacks are NOT allowed in school and politely insist that the children leave these at home with immediate effect. Any remaining rucksacks in school on Monday, will be sent to the school office for collection at your convenience.

PE footwear

Please be reminded that the children will need indoor and outdoor footwear for PE. Trainers are required for outside activities and PE pumps are required for use in the school hall. This is particularly important as we have had the hall floor stripped and restored at vast expense and certain trainers leave unsightly marks which cannot be removed. Children will not be allowed to wear trainers in the school hall. It has also been noted that some children have worn trainers for school. Trainers or trainer style shoes are **not** allowed – please ensure your child is wearing sensible black shoes in line with the uniform guidance. Thank you for your cooperation.

Pantomime

I am keen to seek your opinion regarding the annual school trip to the pantomime at Manchester Opera House. This year it will be Aladdin, starring Alexandra Burke. Normally, we have booked seats by this stage but I wanted to proceed with caution in the current climate. The staff and I are happy to take the children but I am very aware the trip will be just before Christmas and you may not feel comfortable with your child attending a theatre and being part of a large wider audience just before the festive season. On the other hand, you may be keen for them to enjoy this wonderful experience as we try to resume normal activity. Therefore, please could you indicate on the slip overleaf if you would be happy for your child to attend the pantomime and return this no later than Wednesday 8th September. Based on the majority response, we will then make a decision and inform you directly.

After school enrichment activities

On Monday, we will be sending out the list of after school clubs and there will be a wide range of activities on offer. Skiing and horse riding will return and new clubs including graphic design and Lego construction are on offer. Sporting competitions will return as will singing events such as the Altham Choir Competition and Last Choir Singing. Please be aware certain clubs have limited numbers and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. We will then have a waiting list for the next half term.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I wish us all a very happy and successful new school year.

Yours faithfully,



C. L. Garner
Headteacher

I would be happy for my child in Class to attend the Pantomine at Manchester Opera House, week commencing 13th December.

Signed (parent/carer)



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