

3rd September 2021

Ms J Palmer BSc, MA, MA, NPQH
Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

I find it a pleasure to be writing to you as we look forward to the return of pupils on Monday. I always feel like school lacks life and vibrancy without our pupils so we are eager to welcome everyone back.

For the past three days, staff have been taking part in a range of training including:

- Values Based Education
- Safeguarding
- Literacy, reading and phonics
- Medical training including asthma and epilepsy
- Moving and handling
- Hydrotherapy
- First aid

Staff have also been preparing learning areas to ensure the school environment is safe and inviting.

I am pleased to share that Ascend, our new specialist college, will be opening on Monday. Ascend will initially be located on our main site on Swanstree Avenue and in due course will be relocating to their own facility. Ascend will focus on employability skills and you can find more information on our website.

With, hopefully, the worst of Covid behind us, we are returning to some of our pre-Covid practices. In addition, some of the practices we adopted during the pandemic proved to be so successful that we shall continue with them. However, in regard to transport, dismissal time for all pupils will be 3:00pm. We will no longer continue with our 2:30pm parent pick up. We have strategies and staffing arrangements in place to ensure the end of the school day runs as smoothly as possible, however please bear with us in the first week or so as we iron out the finer details that only present themselves when we put our strategies into practice. Our aim is to ensure pupils are dismissed from school as safely and as efficiently as possible, however you can appreciate that this is quite a task as we now have 370+ pupils. We would appreciate your patience.

I would also like to add a word about school uniform, as you know we have a Meadowfield School uniform for pupils. There are many benefits to wearing a school uniform however, if your child finds wearing a uniform stressful or difficult, I am happy to take a flexible and relaxed approach. The most important thing is that children are happy and comfortable in school, so if there are any difficulties with the wearing of uniforms, please get in touch with me. We will continue with Casual Fridays for all staff and pupils; on Fridays pupils can choose what they wear. Some pupils may prefer to opt for their uniform on a Friday, or some pupils may prefer to choose other items of clothing.

I shall write again next week to share our priorities for the 2021-2022 academic year and until then, as always, please feel free to get in touch should you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes & warmest regards,



Jill M. Palmer
Principal

