



Boughton Primary School

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5th September 2018

Dear Parents

WELCOME TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19!

May I firstly take the opportunity to welcome everyone back to school. I hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable break with your families during the summer. We were so fortunate with the weather for most of the summer, for a change!

I am delighted that our staffing and leadership structure remains the same as last year, which will allow us to embed the improvements made but also start some new developments.

This first letter is quite a long one so you might want to make a cup of tea and sit down to read it through and thoroughly digest the information...

Communication

Whilst we would usually expect the day-to-day communication to happen between the class teacher, teaching assistants and parents, we recognise there may be times when you have a question or concern that you would like to discuss with a senior member of staff. To this end, we would see the following process as the way forward:

Class Teacher/Teaching Assistant – Key Stage Leader – Deputy Head – Head

There will, of course, be occasions when you may feel that you need to speak directly to me about an issue or concern; wherever possible, we ask that you discuss with the Class Teacher or Key Stage Leader first.

For general communications home we will use:

- School News App (linked to our school website)
- Our Facebook page
- Email (*please make sure we have the correct email addresses for you*)
- Letters in the children's bags

We are keen to ensure that we give you as much notice as possible of forthcoming events and will be making use of the calendar on the website to publicise activities as far in advance as we can.

Values Education

Our **Values Education** approach is now well-embedded and will continue this year. The value for this term will be **Responsibility**; I will be sending home a Values' Newsletter shortly, with some ideas of how to help the children develop further their independence and responsibility.

I am passionate about our school values and feel strongly that these have had a very positive impact upon behaviour and attitudes at Boughton. However, there is always more that we can do. I ask that my staff and our children keep the values in mind during all interactions at school; for the impact to be fully effective, I hope to see our values within our broader school community too.

We, as adults, need to model these so that our children live them, by talking politely to each other, being respectful and tolerant of others and showing empathy and compassion when needed.

I value honesty and welcome all comments about what we could do better at Boughton; however, as we start our new school year, I ask that everyone expresses their opinions to my staff in a polite and appropriate way. We all have the same goal in mind; to make the school the best it can be for every child. By working together in a positive way we will achieve this shared vision.

Expectations

During our training day yesterday, the staff worked on our expectations of Behaviour for Learning; this encompasses the children's readiness to learn, attitudes and dispositions within lessons and throughout the school day.

As a result, we have made a few changes to further improve our **Behaviour Policy**. These will be published on the school website this week, with a leaflet to parents so that you know what to expect.

The main change is in how we communicate behaviour issues with you, through a yellow and red card system. Details can be found on the school website and within the leaflet this week.

In order to ensure that children come to school prepared and ready to learn, we have also clarified some of our expectations regarding **school uniform** and personal presentation; this is due to a steady decline we have seen over the past year. In part, this was because of the very hot weather, which meant some of our expectations needed to be relaxed slightly. However, we are keen not to allow further slippage.

Therefore, the information in the current school prospectus (which you can find on the school website) is attached, with a list of further updated expectations which will be added to the prospectus and will be effective from October half term (30th October onwards).

If, for any reason, you need to send your child in non-school items (e.g. alternative footwear) please let the class teacher know.

PE kit is a part of school uniform, including appropriate footwear for outdoor PE; we therefore expect all children to have their kit with them in school, in order to take part in PE lessons, which are a compulsory part of the curriculum. If your child does not have his/her kit, s/he will be unable to participate in the lesson. As a parent I realise that it's easy to lose track of what's in school and what isn't, so a note will be sent home to let you know that your child didn't have their kit with them.

We will use our discretion regarding the appropriateness of personal presentation and preparedness for school but, in some instances, it may be necessary to link this to our behaviour policy. For example, a pupil who does not have PE kit with them on more than one occasion will be given warnings in line with the policy, ultimately leading to a consequence if the situation persists.

I am sure that you will support us in helping to ensure the children develop personal responsibility and an understanding of the importance of being ready to learn and participate in all aspects of school life.

School Development Plan

All schools have to write a development plan, outlining the goals for the year and the actions to be undertaken. I will be publishing ours on the school website, so that everyone involved with our school can see the exciting plans we have to enhance the experiences and opportunities already on offer for the children.

I am looking forward to working in partnership with all of our families again. Here's to a fantastic new academic year!

Yours sincerely

Mary James
Head Teacher