



# CHURCHWOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

*At Churchwood everyone can*

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Ros Collett Principal

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to everyone! It has been so lovely to see and welcome all the children across the Nursery, Years 1 – 6 back to the academy this week. I hope that your children enjoyed their first week back with us as much as we enjoyed having them return! This school week has gone really well. Pupils have adapted quickly to the new routines and settled back to work happily. It was lovely to see and hear them playing on the playground in their bubbles together! School is beginning to feel like school again!



## **Drop off and Collection Systems**

Collection and Drop off: I was really pleased to get some feedback about our start and end of the day procedures. Obviously, we had planned these with great care but did not know how this would go with over 200 children and even more parents needing to drop off and collect. This is twice as many as we had when we reopened in June, with far more sibling groups, but with the same restrictions as then!

Drop off in the mornings is getting far quicker now children know the system. As your child gets more confident with the routines, please encourage them to carry their own belongings ready for when they get to the bottom of the playground steps to make it possible for them to enter the building quickly. I am happy to take messages from parents in the morning, but ask if you need me to pass something on, you step to the right hand side to allow other children and parents to drop off safely whilst you pass your message on. Alternatively you can give the office team a call or email them directly, they will be happy to pass on your message to the relevant staff members on your behalf. Please note the gates will not open in the mornings until 8:40am daily; we ask that you do not arrive before this time and you stand on the markings on the pathway leading to the playground gate.

Collection of pupils is trickier. We have tried to keep this as brisk as possible and I am sure we will get much quicker! If you have children in the Middle (Years 1, 2, 3) and Upper academy (4, 5, 6) we ask that you pick up all children at the later time of 3:20pm. We have adapted our system slightly here and we will group sibling groups together to allow the collection of family groups to be quicker moving forwards. As you will have seen, all staff on the playground are focused on ensuring that pupils are dismissed safely and bubble groupings are kept separate in line with government guidance. If your child forgets something, we cannot allow them access back into the school building to get it, so it will need to stay in school until the next day. I appreciate that this is not always convenient and please be assured we will do our very best to ensure that children have all their belongings before they go to the playground.



If your child is in Year 4, 5, or 6 and you are happy for them to walk home alone or to a point off site to meet you; this is possible. You will need to fill in a permissions to walk home form from the office and sign and return this to us and then we will be able to dismiss your child immediately at 3:20pm.

To help us, please can we ask parents and carers collecting to do these things:

- Please keep your distance from other parents and use the markings on the playground when waiting to collect your child.
- Please can **only one adult** collect children daily from site.
- Please leave secondary age siblings offsite. Although it is great to see ex pupils, right at the moment we need as few people on the site as possible to reduce congestion.

We spent many hours discussing and writing our plans. We know that they are not perfect. This is why we usually dismiss children from outside classrooms. Please bear with us as we as we try to get this as smooth as we can. This system will never be easy or convenient – but we are following all the government guidelines in relation to this, and the safety of both pupils and staff are at the heart of all our decisions.

**Belongings:** Just a quick reminder children **only** need to bring in a and a water bottle daily. Please ensure you name both the water bottle we can easily hand these out at lunchtime. **Your child does not need to bring in a fabric school bag or book bag at the moment.** This is because we clean all items with anti bac when they come into the academy. If your child struggles to carry these things separately, please provide them with a named plastic bag. PE sessions will start from next week across the academy. On your child's allocated PE day they need to come into school dressed in their PE kit – a white PE t-shirt, black shorts or jogging bottoms and black trainers or plimsolls. We have had quite a few children mislay their jumpers already this term. Please ensure that you name all your child's school clothes, particularly jumpers, to make it easy for us to get them back to their rightful owner!



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PE Timetable – Autumn Term 1				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 3	Year 4	Year 2	Year 5 Year 1	Ahlberg class Year 6

**Reading Books:** Reading continues to be at the heart of our curriculum. Reading regularly at home is vital in supporting pupils become fluent confident readers. We are in the process of adapting our systems to allow you to record your reading with your child and share this with us. We will send out more information in relation to this next week. In the meantime, teachers will start to send home school reading books for your child to read with you. Please return these the next day and we will clean them and take them out of circulation for 72 hours before they are used again. We have lots of exciting plans linked to reading for this academic year; we will share these with you all soon! In the meantime keep reading!

**New Assemblies:** Ask your child about our new style assemblies in school. We will also be inviting parents to join these assemblies virtually to share their child's achievements with us too. More information will follow on this soon!

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all the parents and staff who have supported so brilliantly with our return to school. This has made our first week back a big success! As always our Churchwood pupils have been absolute superstars and adapted to the new systems brilliantly and have returned to school happy and eager to learn in their new classes. I hope you all have a lovely restful weekend. I look forward to seeing you all next week and to welcoming our new Reception pupils to their very special Teddy bears' picnic sessions!

With very best wishes,

*R. Collett*

Mrs. Ros Collett  
Principal