

# Colnbrook C. of E. Primary School

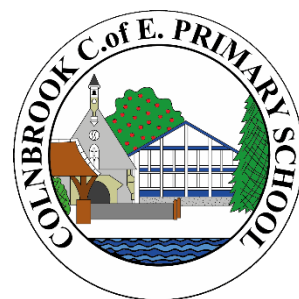
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Headteacher: Mr Tom Brunson B.A.(Hons), NPQH



Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers.

Welcome back to the new academic year! I hope you had a fantastic summer break and it was great to see everyone again this morning. I am writing today with some updates and reminders as we start the new term.

## Our School's Vision

At Colnbrook C. of E. Primary School, we have a shared Christian vision, taken from the Bible: ***“Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid, do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go”*** (Joshua 1:9). This vision is central to everything we do and knits our community together. While we have a strong Christian vision, we are inclusive of all. Regardless of faith or worldview, each individual is respected and given opportunities to express our vision themselves in a way that makes them feel most comfortable.

## Punctuality and Attendance

You will know that timings of the school day have now changed. Every minute in school really does matter and we aim to help children do their best from the moment they walk through the door. From 8:35am, the gates and classroom doors are open with tasks set up ready for the children to get on with straight away. If your child is late, they will miss out on these learning opportunities and it can be embarrassing for children to walk in when their friends are already working. Please ensure your children are on time every day to give them every chance at success. **Gates now close at 8:45am** daily and all children should be in school by this time.

If your child is too unwell to attend school please phone the school office by 9am, **selecting option 2** and leave a voicemail to explain your child's absence.

## New Staff

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Miss Ahmed (Y3 teacher), Miss Digby (Y4 teacher) and Ms Broderick (Early Years Lead and YR teacher) who have joined the staff team at Colnbrook this year. Do take a minute to say hello and make them feel welcome.

## Senior Leadership Team

The senior leadership team is made up of Mrs Uppal & Mrs Bharj (Assistant Headteachers), Ms Broderick (Early Years Lead) Miss Horan (Interim SENDCo) and myself. Mr Thomas will be joining us in October as our new permanent SENDCo. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to speak to one of us before or after school at the gates, or contact us through the school office. In case you have not met us yet, I have attached our photos to the back of this letter; come and say hello if you see us on the playground.

## Uniform

It was great to see so many children looking smart in their uniforms today. Please ensure that children come to school with the full, correct uniform each day. Uniform standards will be carefully monitored by staff and we will contact you if we have any concerns. Missing items can be purchased online through School Days Direct and we do have a few items of second hand uniform available at main reception.

### **Communication**

Our weekly newsletter, sent out each Friday, is full of important information that will allow you to keep up to date with what is going on in school. It is important we have correct contact details to ensure you receive important announcements and letters. If your email address or phone number has changed, please let the office know as soon as possible. Our school website is also regularly updated with key information.

Please check the newsletter or school website before phoning the school office for information to help reduce the workload for our hard working admin team. In addition, please look out for important letters and information sent out via Parent Mail as we try not to send too many printed letters to save paper and reduce costs.

### **Building Improvement Work**

Over the summer holiday we have had a significant amount of building work going on to improve our school. Years 4, 5 and 6 have freshly decorated classrooms, carpets and blinds. Outside areas including the shelters and Year 1 outdoor space has been repainted and has brand new flooring. Early Years have a huge new outdoor area and the school kitchen has been completely refreshed with new flooring and equipment. SEBMAT, the Multi-Academy Trust we are part of, funded these projects meaning we did not need to use school funds to make these improvements. I hope you agree that the school looks much improved thanks to these works.

### **RAAC**

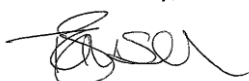
In the last week, you may have seen some media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in schools and other buildings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education has recently changed its guidance to schools to take a more cautious approach and, as a result, areas in affected spaces cannot be used.

I wanted to reassure you that we are not affected by this decision as RAAC has not been identified in any of our buildings and therefore we will continue to function as normal.

### **And finally...**

A big welcome to the new families joining Colnbrook this year; we are very excited to have you as part of our school family. I look forward to meeting you over the next few days.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr. T. Brunson**  
Headteacher

### **Our Senior Leadership Team**



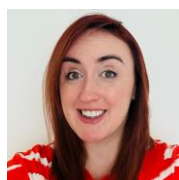
**Mr Brunson**  
Headteacher



**Mrs Bharj**  
Assistant Head



**Mrs Uppal**  
Assistant Head



**Ms Broderick**  
Early Years Lead



**Miss Horan**  
Interim SENDCo