HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**ANSTEY FIRST SCHOOL**

Anstey, Buntingford, Herts, SG9 0BY

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Head Teacher: Mrs Amy Myers

7 September 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to all our families and particularly to Mr Corden who has joined us as a teacher in the Foundation Unit, Mrs Hayes who has joined as a TA in Wise Owls class and to Ilo and Taliah who have joined us in Nursery and Pre-school – please give these new members of our team an Anstey welcome.

My apologies for not sending this letter out sooner; I know parents and children like information on clubs in particular as soon as possible. My PC ‘died’ shortly after we returned to school. Technology always picks its moments doesn’t it? Thankfully, it has now been ‘resuscitated’.

**New Premises New Routine**

No doubt word will have reached you by now of the changes to the premises – Foundation classroom and playground in particular – which we hope you will appreciate. We have also refined our school routine, as follows:

**Start of Day**

8.50 a.m.Teacher on duty in the main playground only – Reception to Year 4 *children can be left with a teacher at this time if you need to leave but please hand them over directly to the teacher so that they know they have responsibility from this time. We would appreciate it if you could please keep children and siblings out of other areas where staff are setting up activities for the day’s teaching.*

**Owlets pre-school children** need to be supervised by parents in the Owlets or main school playground until 9.00a.m. as the classroom is being set up beforehand.

9.00 a.m.Bell rings for Children to line up and be admitted into school.

 Wise Owls Class to walk in to school through the ‘back’ door themselves in line with their mature years

 Little Owls children can be accompanied into the Foundation Unit by their parents

N.B. If it is raining badly we will try to make the cabin available for parents to wait in.

**Lunch**

Lining up is in 2 parts: Little Owls followed by Wise Owls once the queue is cleared.

Lunch is served at well-spaced tables with small water jugs and tumblers which the children pour out themselves. Classical music is played and the children clear up any small spills themselves with small sponges and bowls.

We are all loving the calm atmosphere that the staff are creating with the children.

**Close of Day**

3.05 p.m. End of teaching and tidying up time

3.10p.m. Story, Relaxation or Taking Care of Environment time

3.35 p.m. Collect Coats and Book bags and line up promptly for home time at 3.30pm

**Break Time Snack**

As you know, children in Reception and Y1 and Y2 receive free fruit (and milk if they ordered it) at break time. We often have spare which we share around if available. However, if your Y3/Y4 child is hungry during the day and would like to bring in fruit or if children of any age would like to bring in a healthy snack bar (not chocolate based) then they can do so.

**Show and Tell**

Children are welcome to bring in items from nature of somewhere that they have visited to share their experience with the class. Their items should be put in the special tray until show and tell time and are not for general play.

**Golden Time**

On Fridays children can bring in a special toy to play with in Golden Time only.

**Please Note**

We are now a **nut free** school. Please do not send in products containing nuts.

**Owlets**

Our Owlets pre-school is so successful that we are filling up fast. Many parents are trying sessions for their children now and may require additional sessions once they are settled properly. Please book these sessions with us now to avoid being disappointed as to the available days.

**Afternoon sessions for Nursery and Pre-school children**

We are offering afternoon sessionswith Mrs Garratt and Mrs Tansley in the Owlets School House room until 3.15pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. The cost is £4.50 per hour unless you are claiming these as part of your child’s 15 funded hours if applicable. Please email us if you are interested. These sessions are available on an ad hoc basis but we appreciate any notice where possible.

**Uniform**

Our apologies for any delays or errors with uniform orders – our supplier has been taken over by a larger company and seems to be having a few teething problems which I am sure will be ironed out soon. If anyone needs new items, I have attached a new order form and price list. You can send in the order form or email a request if you prefer.

**NEED NEARLY NEW SCHOOL UNIFORM**? The PTA have plenty of good quality nearly new uniform in stock. OR HAVE YOU GOT CLOTHES THAT NO LONGER FIT? They are always happy to take your good quality clothes and willing to let you swap for a bigger size if they have it in stock. They will have all of their uniform stock available to peruse in the school house before and after school this week. Please get in touch with Sarah Cruise direct on cruise.s@icloud.com or 07976621601. Thank you

**Contact Details**

We will shortly be sending out contact details that we hold on file for you to re-check. In the meantime, if any address, email or telephone details have changed or there is anything, medical or otherwise that we need to know about your children, please let us know. It is important that we hold the correct information on file so that we can keep everyone safe.

**Invoices**

Invoices will be sent out this week for lunches, Owlets sessions not covered by funding and clubs, once they have been booked. Invoices are payable immediately please.

**School Dinners**

As you know, a government initiative is providing the opportunity for all children *up to and including Year 2* to receive free school dinners. Therefore, invoices will be raised for the Y3 and Y4 children only. Meals need to be paid in advance and so invoices are due by return please. You can pay weekly or half termly by cash, cheque or online payment. **The cost for meals this term is £2.30 per day.**

**Anstey Fairy Festival – Friday 30 September 1-5pm**

Following on from the fun we had last year, the fairies and magical folk have heard about the welcome they will receive at Anstey and so we are holding our first annual Fairy Festival on Friday 30 September. Details to follow but please put the date in your diary now; all elves and fairy folk are welcome and wings are de rigueur.

**Piano Lessons – Available for Y1 – Y4**

Should you want to try a taster session for your child, please contact the school. Maddy Bradshaw will be handing over the tuition slot to Geoff Ewen and will be writing to parents of current pupils shortly. Geoff can offer violin as well as piano and Maddy is confident that she is handing us over to capable hands. Maddy has given many years’ service to our school and we thank her for her dedicated music teaching. We are not losing her however as she will be volunteering in school as part of another life plan….

**Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club is available once again from 8.00 a.m. on a daily basis. The cost is £4.00 per child including breakfast. Alternatively, you may drop your child off at 8.30 a.m. for £1.50 without breakfast being provided. It is available on a drop-in basis but we appreciate notice if possible – phone or email the office.

*New – From Monday to Wednesday inclusive* ***Breakfast Club is available from 7.45am****. Please email/ ask in the office for the cost for this service if you are interested.*

**After School Clubs for Children in Year 1 and above, starting Monday 12 September**

We are once again responding to demand and modifying our arrangements from this term.

Clubs from Monday to Thursday inclusive **will run until 5pm**. Friday’s club will finish at 4.30pm

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| Monday till 5pm | Board Games Club with Mrs Myers | £5.00 |
| Tuesday till 5pm | Sports Club – a variety of sports on a rotating basis | £5.00 |
| Wednesday till 5pm | Outdoor Pursuits Club with Mrs Vinton and Mrs Jocelyn | £5.00 |
| Thursday till 5pm | Craft Club with Mrs Vinton and Mrs Jocelyn | £5.00 |
| Friday till 4.30pm | Film Club with Mr Corden – a selection of 1 hour films | £3.50 |

To book a place for your child, please email school by return.

**Please Remember**

* Bring clean PE kit in to school every Monday and if necessary take it home again for washing every Friday.
* Bring a water bottle into school daily (water not squash please). We do have a water fountain if children forget. However, using water bottles at timed drinks breaks keeps the classes from too many disruptions.
* Wellies in school when the weather is wet

**Website**

Regrettably, our website is down. As we are within a week or so of moving to a new website (being developed to be easier for staff to manage) we are asking you to be patient and wait for this new website as it seems a pointless waste of time to spend time and effort on resurrecting the old one. So, please bear with us.

**Dates for Your Diary**

Tuesday13 September 9.00am, Parent View meeting upstairs in the School House. A chance to talk to Mrs Myers and to give us feedback or suggestions over tea or coffee.

Also Roald Dahl Day – children to dress up as their favourite character.

Monday 19 September, Wise Owls to visit the Anstey alpacas – walking visit

Thursday 22 September, Harvest Festival lunch

Thursday 20 October, a.m. Years 3 and 4 to attend Tag Rugby Festival – details to follow

24 – 28 October Half Term

Yours sincerely

Lynne Vinton