



CRADLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Donna Jones BA (Hons)

21st May 2021

Dear Parents,

I wanted to take this opportunity to catch up with you and update you about a couple of things affecting school at the moment and things I need to remind you of.

We do not have any further guidance as yet to relaxing the measures in place due to Covid at school. We are still hopeful that we will be able to make changes towards the end of the summer term. Anything that we are changing or doing now is still part of the latest guidance. After half term we will have Key Stage One and Key Stage Two playtime at the same time, however they will still remain in their bubbles in separate parts of the playground or field. This is what we do at lunchtime. We will also add Nursery to the Key Stage One bubble so that pre-school children can begin some transition sessions in preparation for starting school in September. If the number of cases begin to increase in the local area, we may reinstate further restrictions as a precaution.

Every year throughout the school we find different crazes occurring. This year it is fidget toys that are the newest must have toy. Having fidget toys or anything which comes from a craze always causes problems within school. From Monday children must not bring fidget toys into school, or indeed any toys. We have had children trading fidget toys, excluding other children from friendship groups because of them and they are causing a lot of distraction in class. Children who have been identified as needing this kind of resource to support their learning in individual support plans will still be able to use them but they will need to use one of the selection that we have in school and should still not bring them in from home.

At drop-off times and pick-up time please park respectfully outside properties nearby to school and ensure that the road does not become blocked or narrowed. We often have a situation where the bus cannot get through; this is of course frustrating but could also prevent an emergency vehicle getting to its emergency call. Can I also remind parents not to use the school car park for drop-off or pick-up and please do not to walk children through the car park at any time of the day. It is important that we keep all of our children and school community safe.

It is part of our uniform policy for children with long hair to keep it tied up at all times in school. We do regularly have cases of headlice in some classes and hair tied back will prevent children from catching it. There are several children with hair that is in front of their eyes and this again distracts them during lessons. Please can all children tie their hair back for these reasons.

If the weather changes which we certainly hope it does very soon, it will be required that children have a hat in school and will need to apply all day suncream before coming into school. If children are particularly susceptible to the sun then you may send a small container that children can apply themselves before lunchtime break or PE. I have heard that there is a heat wave on the way and so it will be good to be prepared.

The children are working very hard in school at the moment and most are happy and extremely engaged. However, as always a small majority of children are still finding the transition back into school quite tricky. If you know that this applies to your children please talk to them at home about the importance of doing their best at all times and allowing others to get on with their work. If children are really struggling please get in touch with your child's class teacher so that we can discuss with you the best way for us to support them. Many of the children are currently getting very tired and have a seasonal cold. It is important that we still recognise the symptoms of Covid and if children have a temperature of 38+, lose their sense of taste or smell, or have a new persistent cough they must have a test at a test centre. Lateral flow tests that you have at home should not be used on children, or for anyone who has Covid symptoms.

Next week is healthy schools week in school and we will be focusing on activities around a healthy body, healthy mind and being active. Please ensure your children have their PE kit in school every day.

I apologise that we have had to cancel some after-school sports clubs this half term due to the weather. If children are booked into an after-school sports club we will try to let you know as soon as we can that clubs are cancelled. This is a very difficult decision for us to make and we often have to make decisions based on the weather at the time or a forecast for later in the day. If you will need childcare should this club be cancelled, please can you book your child into after-school club. If the club goes ahead we can always credit any money that you have paid. This ensures that they have a place at after-school club should a sports club be cancelled at the last minute.

Thank you as always for your support and cooperation to everything that happens in school.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Jones

