



Dear Families,

I am delighted to write to you as we near the end of our second week back in school and it is like we have never been away. The children are throwing themselves into their learning and the teachers are working really hard to ensure that we continue to offer excellent learning opportunities at all times in school.

Meet your child's new teacher:

I am pleased that so many of you took the opportunity after school yesterday to come in and hear about all the lovely and amazing things the teachers have got planned for your children this term. It was a very successful evening and we had many parents attending which was great.

Parent's Forum reps – Information coming soon:

I am delighted that some parents have already been asking when the elections for the Parents' Forum reps will be taking place. Please look out for the letter concerning this which will be coming out from Ms Panzu shortly. Remember if you are a serving Rep you can stand again as you do not have to step down, unless you want to of course.

Toddler group:

Our amazingly popular Toddler Group has started up again on Friday mornings and is in the same place as last year in the Children's Centre meeting room just by the Key Stage One entrance to the school. Ms Panzu would love any parents who want to take over the organisation of this group to let her know please. I am so pleased that this group is popular and going forward, we really want this to become a parents' group run by the parents and enjoyed by them and their toddlers.

PTA coffee morning coming soon:

Again, I am really pleased that we will be re-launching our Parents and Teachers Association this term and an introductory coffee morning for this is planned for later this term. A letter will be coming out with more specific details so please watch out for this and please, please we need you more than ever at the moment to become involved in this.

Parental workshops coming soon:

Another heads up I would like to give you is for the parent workshops that we are planning to take place later in the term. Ms Khaleeq and other members of school staff will be running workshops on reading, writing and the ever-popular phonics workshops will be making a return also. Again, more information will follow. We are trying harder than ever to give parents good notice of the events happening in school as we really want you to be able to attend these very important workshops.

Earlier this week we sent out the annual calendar of events for you to post up on your fridge or somewhere prominent in the house, so you can have good advanced notice of the amazing array of events we are planning for this academic year.

Stay and Learn:

Stay and Learn sessions are returning for Year 4 and 6 in the **week of 26th September** so again please watch out for the forms to sign up for these sessions as it is where you get to come in for a morning or afternoon and experience what your child experiences on a daily basis in class. These events are hugely popular now so please do not miss out.

School Budgets:

We are experiencing unprecedented hard times financially in this country at the moment and I am sure many of you, like me are being faced with massively increased energy bills at home and trying to cope with the rising cost of food and all items in the shops at the moment.

As a school, we are no different and our energy bills are set to increase by at least 50% on last year and the cost of supplies and educational resources are also rising steadily. All of this means there is real pressures on our budget situation. This year I will need to find additional monies to pay for staff pay rises agreed by the government and also the employer national insurance costs. There will be little if anything spare.

At the moment we are making a loss on all school trips and visits because not all parents agree to pay the voluntary contribution and this will inevitably mean some trips will have to be cancelled as we cannot afford to continue running at a loss. I am not cancelling all trips but we may have to reduce those that we do. I am sad about this because I have always wanted to enhance the learning for all of the children by doing lots of educational visits and trips but in these extraordinary difficult financial times it may not be possible and difficult decisions have to be made just in order to pay our bills and provide the resources needed for the children to learn.

I am also mindful that you may be experiencing similar financial pain and am keen not to shift the burden onto you if I cannot help it.

This means that we will be trying to cut costs where we can whilst trying to make money elsewhere in terms of letting our buildings after school and at weekends. Please, if you know of anybody who wants to hire our facilities please let us know at the school office as this is something we absolutely have to do more of just to survive. We can offer the school halls for birthdays, weddings and other family events so if you are interested in this please let us know via the school office. Our charges are extremely competitive with local halls etc.

Bank holiday reminder:

Please be reminded that Monday is a bank holiday and school will be closed out of respect for the passing of the Queen.

Attendance Figures for each year group this week:

Year 1-96.58%

Year 2-94.49%

Year 3-94.09%

Year 4-94.45%

Year 5-92.39%

Year 6-91.66%

**Congratulations to Year 1 as the only year group to hit the whole school target of 96%.
Overall school average 93.93% which must improve please!!**

NB: Can I remind Year 6 parents who are keeping children off from school to attend tuition centres to be coached for 11+ that this is unacceptable and will be marked as unauthorised which may mean that the Educational Welfare Officer from the LA will be contacting you to explain why you have done this.

I will also report any tuition centre that is encouraging you to do this to the Director of Education as they are literally encouraging truancy.

Collecting children during the school day for appointments:

Please could you try to arrange for appointments to be made after school hours as we have a large amount of parents asking to collect children early or at lunchtimes at the moment. This is highly disruptive for the children who are missing vital learning when as I have said many times, every minute in school counts now as we are still trying to recover from the last two years of disruption.

I appreciate that on occasions it is difficult to arrange medical appointments outside of school times but I must urge you to try to do this for your child's sake.

Even worse, on many occasions parents are not informing school of their need to collect the children and are simply turning up and expecting office staff to go and collect their child there and then. This is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated in future. Please have the courtesy to let us know if you intend to collect your child later in the day and please bring proof of the need to take them out of school early, otherwise I will not release them.

Finally, I want to wish you all a happy and safe weekend with your families and thank you for your continued support for all that we are doing at Redbridge Primary. I look forward to seeing you all again next week,

My very best wishes,

Steve Davies (Head Teacher)