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St. Andrew's C.P. School



Kirk Ella

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As I mentioned before Easter, we are establishing extra sessions within the school this term using the existing staff to help with catch up. Since September, we have increased our capacity of staff by adding seven new teaching assistants (TAs). This has helped us provide extra support for your children after the first lockdown with TAs supporting groups and also covering teachers who are working with other children. We will be adding to this over the summer with extra sessions to ensure we do our best to boost your child's catch-up support.

The government have talked about extra 1 to 1 tuition but in reality, it is not practical. The catch-up funding works out at about £80 a child which would not cover expenses and is not practical in a school our size if we are trying to provide something for everyone. We would also need to explain to tutors the needs of each child which would be time consuming, and we would have no guarantees of the quality of the tutors.

We felt that the support for the children would be most beneficial if it was provided by the people that know them and their specific needs.

This support will be carried out in a number of ways, including:

- Extra support sessions before school from 8.15am - 8.45am
- Extra support sessions after school from 3.15pm - 3.45pm
- Part-time teachers working extra afternoons.
- Class teachers providing extra support in the afternoons.

Each year group have set up a timetable of extra sessions to be carried out over the summer and it will be reviewed continually. By doing it this way we can assure you that your child will be getting extra support in English and Maths on top of their normal daily sessions in the morning.

The type of support your child is provided with will be according to need and may require them to come in early or staying after school.

This is not the only way they will get extra support and it might mean that the early and after school sessions are not required for your child as they may be getting support at other times during the school day. This is the case in earlier years as we felt longer days will be too much for them.

Some of you will be contacted soon by your class teacher to invite you to an earlier or later session. Please be aware that these groups will be flexible and may not be permanent and may only last for a short time. We understand that this might not be easy for some parents and they are not compulsory but please try and get your child to them if you can.

If you are asked to bring your child in the morning, the gate will be open just before your session and then closed at 8.15am as the session will have started, so please be prompt. We want the sessions to work efficiently as we only have a short time, and it is very important that children are focused throughout. Those children working after school will be taken to their sessions and the gates will be opened at 3.45pm for pick up.

Homework

To ensure the best results we are asking you to support the work in school as best as you can. This includes supporting your children in their homework.

The weekly homework consists of:

- Regular reading four times a week. Please fill in the reading record
- Working on Doodle Maths, Grammar, Spelling and Tables (depending on your year group). If you require further support on how to do this, please Dojo you class teacher.
- Any other topic work that the class teacher asks for.

It is very clear that those children that complete their homework on a regular basis make greater progress overall.

I hope you are happy that we are trying to do our best for the children in the school and I want to praise again all the hard work the staff are doing to ensure we get through this difficult time.

Keep Safe,



Mr Church

