



The Manor
Preparatory School

To All Parents

Friday 10 July 2020

Dear Parents

Weekly Update

We hope that you have enjoyed settling into a new pace of life after the challenges that last term brought for all of us, in their many guises. I am sure for your children it has been lovely not to have to log on to the first Google Meet of the day.

As you will appreciate, our thoughts have already turned to September, following the guidance which was published last week by the Government and we are planning for a full re-opening of all classes. There will be some restrictions, of course, as we continue to need to keep children in "bubbles". We will continue to update you over the course of the summer but we are also aware that the guidelines may change at any time, thus causing us to adapt in response to these.

For now, a few practical matters:

Library Books

There is a large box, just to the left of The Manor house for you to drop any library books please - thank you.

Uniform

In line with current Government guidance children will be required to return to school in September wearing uniform. Winter OR Summer uniform will be permitted but not a combination of the two. We are currently looking at inviting children to come to school in sports kit on the days when they have PE or games as we will be unable to use the changing rooms at this time.

An issue that was raised earlier in the year by School Council was a desire for girls to have the choice of a trouser option from Year 1. After much debate, we have agreed with the children and these will be available from Stevensons. As they are not branded, you may purchase these from any supplier. Please note that these must be plain grey, not dark charcoal. Large side pockets or other patterns or motifs are not permitted.

School Work

We are very aware that the children need a break. Many weeks of online learning is very different to normal school so the holidays are a chance to enjoy other activities. Having said that, if the children are able to continue with reading, spellings and a bit of times tables practice, this will always stand them in good stead on their return!

For children in Year 5, we always advise that they continue with some entrance exam practice over the course of the holidays. Please see the link below to the earlier letter regarding Year 5 Summer work:

<https://www.manorprep.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Y5-Summer-Work.pdf>.

Autumn Term Fees

As has already been announced by the Governors, the Autumn Term fees will remain the same as the 2019/20 fees, with a review for the Spring and Summer Terms due over the holidays. This information will be communicated to you before the start of the Autumn Term.

During the next few weeks the Autumn Term invoices will be prepared and these will be emailed to you in August, rather than this week as is normally the case.

For those parents who pay via monthly direct debit this will mean your August direct debit payment, which is usually collected on 3 August, will now be collected on 28 August. The September, October and November payments will be collected at the usual time on 3 September, 5 October and 3 November respectively.

Staff News

It is with much sadness that I have to announce Karen Copson will be retiring in December. Karen came to see me much earlier this year to let me know of her intentions for the very best of personal reasons, after the arrival of her first granddaughter. I tried valiantly to make her change her mind but the lure of spending more time with her wonderful family won over in the end. My first meeting with Karen was as a parent when our children were starting at The Manor. I was blown away by the way in which she helped us to settle. I did wonder whether this was purely because I was about to take up the reins as Head but I have witnessed first-hand the extraordinary lengths to which Karen goes for each and every Manor family. There will be time for further platitudes but I am sure that you will join me in wishing Karen every health and happiness when the time comes. We will of course keep you updated with news of her replacement.

I am delighted that our two GTAs, Mrs Goldthorpe and Miss Parkinson will be staying with us for the next academic year. They have proved to be outstanding supports for children and staff alike and they will bring great continuity for the children on their return.

We will be communicating again mid-way through the holidays with a further update but in the meantime we hope you all have a lovely Summer break, wherever it may take you.

Yours

Alastair Thomas
Headmaster