

Dear parents and carers,

It has been wonderful to have a full school this week. I have been very impressed with how well our children in Reception and Pre-school have settled. Staff have been focussing on building relationships with the children and establishing routines and expectations. Behaviour around school is very good and children are demonstrating our school values well. Thank you to parents and carers for attending our KS1 reading session, it was great to see so many families enjoying reading together.

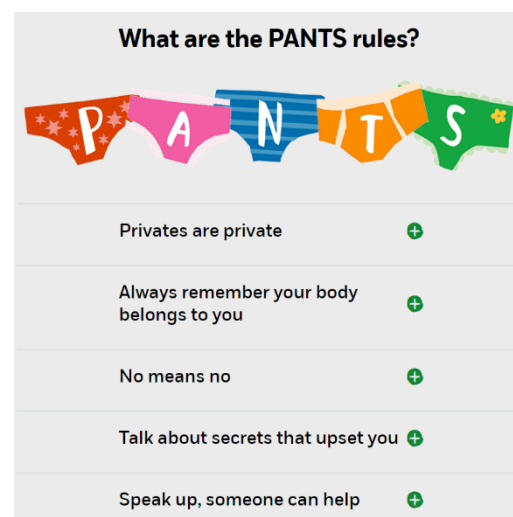
In our Key Stage One assembly this week we read the story of 'The very Lonely Firefly', and thought about resilience and how the firefly persevered even when things are tricky. We looked at the firefly in our school logo and thought about how we could be resilient and shine bright like the firefly. Miss Knezevic led our first singing assembly this week, hearing children sing in school is amazing and I am sure the children will enjoy learning new songs over the next few weeks.

### **Speak out. Stay Safe. Assembly**

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September I will be leading an assembly. During the assembly and in class circle time sessions we will be sharing with the children 'The Underwear Rule' from NSPCC. We will use the NSPCC guidance "Talking PANTS", this is about using simple, child-friendly language to give your child the confidence and knowledge to stay safe.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>

We will also be sharing 'The Underwear Rule' and video with our children in Pre-school and Reception as part of usual circle time experiences when we focus on personal, social and emotional skills and education.



### **Site Safety**

The safety of our children in school is of the highest importance and whilst we are confident with the measures in place overall, there are a few areas where we need to put further measures in place to further enhance safety. Over the next few weeks, I will be sharing information with you on our site safety and some of the processes we have in place to keep our children safe.

We are currently looking into alternative solutions to replace the current pedestrian gates. There have been several incidents where the gates have been left open during the school day. **Please can we ask parents to help keep the site secure by closing the gate behind you if you enter or exit the site between 9am and 3pm.**

Invacuation – This is used if we need to bring the children inside quickly. We explain the procedure to the children as needing to come inside quickly in case something happened like a swarm of bees (this did happen once) or a thunderstorm. The procedure is as follows:

- The children will hear long blows on a whistle and staff will communicate on walkie talkies alongside using the whistle.
- If children are outside, they will come inside quickly and sit on the carpet. Doors, windows and blinds will be closed. Lights will be switched off. The children will sit quietly but teachers can read a story or watch something on the large class screen.
- Red Class will go to Violet Class and Yellow Class will go to Blue class, to avoid being isolated outside of the main school building.
- If children are inside, they must stop what they are doing and sit on the carpet. Doors, windows and blinds must be closed.
- SLT will ask each class to respond on the walkie talkie if they are all present. E.g. "Hello Rainbow 1" "Yes. Rainbow 1 are all present and correct."
- When the invacuation is over, SLT will communicate this using the walkie talkie or will visit classes to explain to the children what happened.

If an unexpected invacuation does take place we will inform parents as soon as possible, as we did this week.

### Overdale School Streets

**Overdale's school street is back!**



Please find below a reminder of the school streets initiative around our school.

The school street on Eastcourt Road and Northfold Road, alongside the one-way on Ashclose Avenue, are both still operational.

Here is a quick reminder of what's in place, and some tips for getting to school:

1. **School Street on Northfold and Eastcourt Road** means the roads are closed Monday to Friday during school run times (**8-9am and 2:30-4pm**). Only residents, the emergency services and those eligible to receive a School Street access permit, will be allowed to

pass into the closure. If you do so without a permit – you could be heavily fined. This includes driving and/or parking within this area.

2. **Ashclose Avenue one-way** – There are bollards to indicate which way traffic should be flowing.
3. **Park and stride:** Knighton Park is open to use before and after school. The walk to school is less than 10 minutes to both the Ashclose Avenue school entrance and the entrance on Overdale Road. Please park and stride where possible.

#### Things to remember:

- We love active travel! Remember that walking, wheeling, cycling and scooting is best, but, if you have to drive, please use a park and stride. If the park and stride is too far for you, try parking a few streets away and aiming to walk the last 5 minutes to school.
- Removing cars from the immediate area makes the school run safer. Period.
- If you do need to drive, be kind and considerate to our neighbours: **don't park across driveways, on yellow lines (zig zags or straight ones) or on pavements.**

#### Reminders

- Bikes and scooters are not allowed to be ridden on the whole school site. Also children must not ride on the school bikes and scooters on the Reception Playground during drop-off and pick-up times.
- If you are attending a reading session or open session all parents will need to exit the site via the gate in the Reception playground.

#### Dates for your diary

Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Individual School Photos
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Macmillan Coffee Morning – Meet our Senior Leadership team. More information coming soon
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Routes to Resilience Open Session – More information coming soon
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening – More information coming soon
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening – More information coming soon
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half term.

Enjoy the sunshine this weekend!

Mrs Holmes