

Dear Parents / Carers

First of all I hope you are all well and keeping safe. I am pleased to say the children seem very happy and are working really hard.

It has been a very exciting and busy time getting ready for the new academic year. I just want to inform you of some of the changes ahead as Dorrington moves forward celebrating its Outstanding status continuing to raise standards.

Exciting news for the children, the playground project will commence on the 5th July 2021 and be completed for the new academic year. The children have been promised a new exciting playground and the governors have invested in achieving this for them. To accommodate the playground being completed on schedule, you will be informed next week of new pick up and drop off arrangements for the beginning and end of the day.

We have many staff leaving this year due to relocations and retirements. Some of you may know already that we are saying farewell to long standing staff, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Wilkins and Mrs Shrigley.

Without doubt these long term members of staff have been part of our community for many years and I am pleased to say they will stay part of the community for many more years in some form. Over the next coming weeks, staff will be holding a collection box in the playground for collections for their leaving presents from the community if you wish to contribute. On Tuesday 20th July, between 2pm and 3pm the ladies will be in the garden at the back of the wellbeing house, relaxing I hope as they contemplate their retirement. As parents if you wish to say goodbye personally, the gates will be open between 2pm and 3pm for you to say your goodbyes.

We are excited to inform you that we are investing in more teachers to join Dorrington Academy as we have a program of catch up for all the education the children have missed during Covid restrictions. We intend to continue with our successful group teaching and increase this provision as much as possible. We will be welcoming 8 new members of staff in September. Mrs Rooney will be managing the office and Mrs Arnold will be managing finance, so these two ladies will be your communication points.

We have been very busy getting ready for September. As part of our strategic plans we have invested in technology and systems to allow a more efficient and effective way to work with parents regarding payments, uniform and reporting absence.

From September, it is a requirement that all payments must be made to the Academy for dinner money and trips through the Academy's new online payment system, which has an associated app. You will be given further information on how you can pay online before we break up for the summer, so please do not worry.

From the 1st August 2021 the Academy will no longer be selling school uniform. You will be able to purchase all uniform from the local uniform shop at the Scott Arms and the address will be on the Academy's website. You all received a group call yesterday informing you that on our two teacher

days this Thursday and Friday we will be having a uniform sale, with 20% reduction. I recommend if you have the time to take advantage of the opportunity anytime on Thursday and Friday to buy the last of our stock.

We are having a new phone system over the next few weeks which will make it easier for you communicate with the Academy.

Finally, it is a very exciting day today because our Sensory bus is arriving. This is a state of the art bus with exciting educational technology with a difference for all children to use.

We will be contacting you shortly to give you a date for a training opportunity to see how our payment online system works. So overall we are becoming cashless and paperless to make it easier for our community and more efficient as an Academy

Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions we cannot hold a year 6 graduation this year, but rest assured plans are in place to do small events and surprises for year 6.

Finally, you will be receiving your child's report on the 2nd July 2021 and notification of your child's teacher for next year.

And last but not least, we always try to do a surprise raffle for the summer and the children have expressed an interest in a raffle prize of a PLAYSTATION 5. We appreciate these are difficult to come by but we are over the moon as we have found one! The raffle tickets will be on sale for £2 a ticket every night in the playground and the draw will be on Monday 19th July 2021.

Please look after yourselves and we will be in touch with you in the near future with further updates.

Yours sincerely,

Miss L Barratt

Headteacher