

Mrs L Salter
Head Teacher

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Bower Grove School
Fant Lane
Maidstone
ME16 8NL

7th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to welcome back our pupils. Thank you for your efforts to ensure pupils look smart and ready to learn.

Communication

It would be very helpful to have an up-to-date email address to help us communicate with all of our parents. Please can you inform the school office if you have new contact details or provide us with an email communication by Monday 13th September.

School Photographer

The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 21st September. The photographer will be taking individual and class photographs. Please make a note of this and ensure your child is smartly dressed on this day.

PFTA

The AGM for our School PFTA will be held on Tuesday 14th September at 3.30pm. You are most welcome to join this friendly group who organise the fund raising events for our school. If you wish to attend, we can provide childcare for the duration of the meeting if given prior notice.

ParentPay

This is our cashless system to enable parents/carers to make payments to the school 'online'. Payments can be made in this way for school lunches and all trips and activities e.g. swimming, as well as payments towards residential trips. We hope that this will reduce the need for cheques and cash being brought into school and make payments much easier for you.

There will still be the opportunity to continue with cheques and cash should this be your preferred option.

Parents Evening

Parents Evening Wednesday 17th November 3.30-6.00pm for Tadpoles, Hedgehogs, Honeybees, Foxes, 7W, 7S, 8L, 8D, 9T, 9H ONLY. These will be an option for virtual meetings and further information will follow.

Easy Fundraising

The PFTA have signed up Bower Grove School to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bowergrove>. Please use this link to do your online shopping and a small donation then gets put into the Bower Grove fund.

Vaccines

Flu vaccinations will take place on **Thursday 7th October** for year groups R-7. Further information will follow.

School Uniform

Please ensure all items are named as this will enable staff to return items quickly. Thank you for your assistance. We have been notified by our uniform provider "Brigade" that any outstanding orders should be dispatched by the end of this week.

New Covid Guidance

As you are aware the guidance regarding Covid changed on 16th August 2021.

The important changes are:

From 16th August you will NOT be required to self-isolate if you live in the same household as someone with Covid-19 if any of the following apply:-

- You are fully vaccinated
- You are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- You have taken part in or are currently part of an approved Covid 19 vaccine trial
- You are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

As a school we are working very hard to ensure our community remains as safe as possible. I am therefore urging parents and carers to be both cautious and vigilant. Pupils in years 7 and above have Lateral Flow Home Testing Kits which we encourage you to use weekly.

I realise the message can be quite confusing about when you should send your child to school or keep them at home. I am attaching a guide to this letter which I hope will be helpful to you and bring some clarity. If you are in any doubt, please do not hesitate to call the school office.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Salter