

Monday 9th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you have all had a great summer holiday and are ready for the year ahead. It was a great first day back. The children settled in brilliantly and it didn't feel like the first day of term. We were all so impressed with how smart the children looked and how eager they were to start the new academic year. We have got lots of exciting things planned for this year and we will continue with our weekly newsletter on a Friday to keep you updated and showcase some of the things the children have been doing in school. You can follow our Twitter and Facebook page too. Our website is in the process of changing and once it has moved to the new layout, we will continue to regularly update our website to keep you all up to date with key information.

As the new year begins, I wanted to share a few key bits of information. As part of our PE curriculum, every child will have swimming lessons at the Cloudside pool. We will begin with the Year 6 children and then move down the year groups. You will be informed in advance of when your child's swimming will commence. Where possible, your child will have PE on the same day each week although there are occasions when we need to make adaptations to the timetable. We encourage you to send your child to school with their PE kit on a Monday and leave it in their locker until they have had their PE lesson. PE kit can then be taken home on a Friday to be washed.

The Government are focused on increasing attendance at all schools across the country. It remains a priority here at Cloudside. There was new Government guidance that is now compulsory from September. One significant change is regards to holidays taken during term time. The fine imposed by the Government has increased to £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days. If a second holiday is taken during term time within a 3-year period, an increased fine will be issued. If three holidays are taken during term time within a 3-year period other action will be taken. This link provides all of the details <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/08/19/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/> We will not be authorising any time off for holidays during term time and that may result in fines from the authority as we are required to notify them of any holiday absence. It is important that all children are in school so that every child maximises their potential and no learning is missed. This can create gaps in knowledge and children falling behind. If you have any questions about required absence, please speak to Miss Wilson. If a child is absent from school and we have not had communication with families, we have a safeguarding responsibility and duty of care to make sure that all of our children are safe and a home visit will be completed.

If your child has been unwell, they can return to school the following day, at your discretion, if they are feeling better and there has been no further sickness. If your child is feeling unwell but they have not been physically sick, we encourage you to send them into school. We will monitor them closely and keep you updated if they deteriorate and need to go home. There is also the option for medication to be administered at school. All medication should be brought to the school office and a medication form completed. If a child has been absent from school, on the third day of absence, a home visit will be completed. This will happen even if you have been in contact with school every

day, to complete a 'Safe and Well Check'. This is part of our Safeguarding responsibility and we have a duty of care for every child who attends Cloudside Academy.

Miss Wilson will be continuing to complete register checks fortnightly and will notify parents, via letter, when attendance falls below 97%. Where attendance raises concerns, I will be asking Miss Wilson to have meetings with families to see what additional support we can offer to help families. More information can be found on our website on the Attendance page. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Miss Wilson or myself via the info@ email address or by calling the school attendance number.

Our uniform policy is that children will wear a blazer and tie in Year 5 and 6 and the school colours for their jumper or cardigan in Year 3 and 4, white polo top or shirt, grey or black trousers, shorts or skirt and black appropriate shoes. We know that on occasions there will be times where children have grown out of school uniform or damaged their clothing or shoes. If a child is unable to wear the uniform in accordance to the policy, we will support by providing clothing and black shoes that can be borrowed during the school day. If you are having any difficulties with uniform, please speak with a member of SLT or the office and we will see what support we can provide. We also ask that children wear appropriate headbands and bobbles. It is not school policy to wear large bows, brightly coloured headbands or dyed hair. This can be saved for non-uniform days or events such as the school disco. Jewellery should also be restricted to small studs and/or a watch. If a child is wearing other jewellery, it will be safely stored in an envelope and given back to the child or parent at the end of the day.

We pride ourselves on our open communication. If you do have any questions or concerns, please speak with a member or staff and we will be happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support. It is going to be another great year, where we will see every child thrive.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Milson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Miss J Milson
Head of School