



A caring learning community
Head Teacher: Mrs E Cole B Ed (Hons)

September 2016

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to our new school year. I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing summer, the good weather did finally appear for us so I hope you were able to make the most of it.

This week we have welcomed a few new members of staff to our team. Miss Glasscoe has joined our Year 1 team as teacher for Hedgehog class, Mrs Long has joined our Year 2 team, as teaching assistant for Owl class, and Mrs Rathod has joined our Nursery team as teaching assistant. Also congratulations to Mrs Gregg (formerly Miss Blackshaw) who celebrated her wedding during the holidays.

A number of improvements have taken place in the school including new carpeting in our long corridor and redecoration of some of the walls. Sadly, the lion has been painted over – I will be asking the School Council to vote on a new idea for a mural in this area.

I would also like to express a huge 'thank you' to the Catargiu family for their generosity in the refurbishment of 3 of our classrooms. Robin, Ladybird and Bumble Bee classrooms have all had a full refurbishment including repainting, new carpets and new Lino. The children in these classes are very proud of their smart classrooms. Also thank you to Mr Baron, who kindly gave his time to reinstall the technology in these classrooms following the refurbishment.

We will be using these refurbishments as motivation to ensure all of our classrooms are at this standard. I will be working with Mr Norcott and Mrs Lewington to develop a plan for the rest of the classrooms in the school.

The start of the year is always a good time to remind our school community about expectations.

Thank you for ensuring your children have arrived at school looking smart. All children should be wearing the Malvern Way school uniform with pride, including book bag, water bottles and PE kits. I ask for your support in ensuring items such as hairbands and earrings fall in line with our dress code and serve a functional rather than a fashion purpose. All children should have their hair tied up if it is long enough to do so. The weather is very changeable at the moment so a reminder that a coat and pair of wellington boots are essential.

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As a staff we have noticed a problem with key rings and other accessories on book bags. You may not be aware but the bags are stored in classrooms in individual drawers and the addition of such items is preventing the children from opening their drawers easily. **After much staff debate, we have decided the only way to solve this is to ask for all accessories to be removed from the book bags. Staff have been instructed to remove these items from Monday if they remain on the bags.**

Doors open promptly at 8.50am. The beginning of the day helps our children to develop their social relationships and arriving on time ensures that no learning is missed. On the very rare occasion that a child arrives after the doors have closed, please report to the school office.

Myself and Mrs Butcher will continue to be available on the playground before and after school. Please come and say hello!

Teachers are always willing to meet with you to discuss any aspect of your child's development. Please be reminded that the morning is not a suitable time for this and our Teaching Assistants are able to take messages.

Our children have spent time in their classrooms with the Teachers reminding themselves of rules and routines in the school and I am also taking the opportunity to remind parents to ensure:

- **everyone** dismounts their bikes or scooters when entering the school playground
- the playground equipment is not to be used before or after school (**this includes use by siblings**), children are not using any area other than the playground and school paths at these times
- the path for Shield Bug and Bumble Bee is left accessible for our children, parents should stay the other side of the gate
- children do not play on the slopes or the metal barriers by the entrance to Nursery
- they exit the playground promptly, particularly at the start of the day
- the staff car park is not used as a pedestrian route
- cars are parked exercising care for all road users and showing consideration to our neighbours – I have already sent out a number of letters to parents/carers who continue to park on the yellow lines

I thank you in advance for your support with all of the above to ensure our school runs smoothly and safely.

Kind regards

Mrs Emma Cole
Headteacher