

PARENT BULLETIN - Friday 11th September 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to you all at the start of another academic year! It has been such a pleasure to meet our new cygnets for their mini-matriculation at Cherwell this week, and we can't wait to see the rest of our students next week. We have been busy getting our new site ready over the last couple of weeks, but it definitely won't feel like a proper school until our students arrive!

Please note that the school day will end at the following times next week:

- **Monday and Tuesday - 3.40pm (early finish due to matriculation)**
- **Wednesday - 3.40pm (all Wednesdays will end at 3.40pm during the pandemic as we are unable to run electives)**
- **Thursday - 4.35pm (as normal)**
- **Friday - 3.40pm (as normal)**

As we are all aware, the return to school this September is unlike any other. Not only are we all having to get used to a new building but also the new routines that we have in place to make our school as Covid-secure as it can be. Please read the information below carefully - as well as our usual start of term reminders, there are also some very important notices about how things will be a bit different in light of the current situation. As always, please do let us know if you have any further questions.

Ms Wood

General Reminder - Covid-19

School may look a little different over the next few months as we take measures to minimise the risk of infection within our school community. You can refresh your memory of the measures that we are putting in place on [our website](#). To help your child prepare for the return to school, please can we ask you to:

- Speak to your child about the importance of maintaining good hygiene and social distancing measures.
- Keep your child home from school if they display any of the [symptoms of Covid-19](#). Please keep us informed if your child or a member of your household becomes ill.
- Ensure your child has a bottle of hand sanitiser with them if at all possible. Face masks are not mandatory, but your child is welcome to wear one in school if they would prefer to.
- Ensure your child has their own water bottle - these can be filled up from water fountains.

Travel

We encourage as many students as possible to travel to school by walking, cycling, or taking the bus. There is support for how to do this on [our website](#). If there are mobility reasons why your child needs to be dropped off, please make sure that you have applied for a permit. **Vehicles without a permit are not permitted to access the school site; parents must not drop off their children on local residential streets.**

ParentMail and MyChildAtSchool

We are aware that some parents are having issues logging onto our parents portals. Please be aware that we are working hard to resolve these issues and will let you know when we have found a solution. Be assured that your child will still be fed lunch but we would ask you to get them to bring their own snack (fruit or veg; no nuts) to eat at break.

School Uniform/PE Kit

To minimise the need for extended periods of time in the changing rooms, students should wear their PE kit to school on the days that they have PE. **They will also need to bring with them their school shoes in a bag - this is to ensure that they do not bring mud through the building after playing sports on the field.**

Forgotten Equipment

We are trying to minimise the number of visitors coming into the site. If parents need to drop off any forgotten equipment or musical instruments, they should call the office to make an appointment and items should be dropped in the box outside of reception.

Term Time Holidays

Excellent attendance is one of the most important and most effective ways to help children achieve in school. The Swan School therefore does not authorise any term time holidays for students. [Please click here to read a letter with more information about our approach and the measures we will take to enforce this.](#)

Behaviour Routine Changes

Please note that the following changes have been made to our behaviour systems:

1. Reflection now finishes at the end of the normal school day - your child will not have detention after school.
2. After School Detentions take place that night unless we hear from a parent/carer with a reason why this cannot happen. Parents are informed of any detentions during the school day.

Staff Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy within school for a new Traffic Marshall - if you are interested or know anybody that is interested in this role, please do see our [website](#) for more information on how to apply for this vacancy.

Key Dates:

- Virtual Open Evening - Wednesday 7th October
- Progress check afternoon - Thursday 15th October
- Half Term - Thursday 22nd October - Friday 30th October
- Data and planning day - Friday 4th December
- Parent Day - Wednesday 9th December
- End of Term - Thursday 17th December