



Monday 30th April 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Revised Lunchtime Arrangements and Behaviour Policy

I hope your child has settled back in to the Summer Term and is enjoying their new topic.

I am writing to you to share the work that we have been undertaking in order to improve lunchtimes to ensure that this time of day is happy and safe for all concerned. It is fantastic to be able to focus on this area of school development now that our playground is largely complete.

As I am sure you are aware, alongside many positive rewards, we operate our 3,6,9 system for inappropriate behaviour. On reviewing this, we have found that our policy is working successfully within classroom lessons; during transitions within the school day (e.g. when children move from lesson to lesson or to assemblies) and indeed at morning break time. However, we have found that our 3,6,9 system is less successful at lunchtimes, for a number of reasons, which we are now addressing. Our review has incorporated several meetings with our team of Midday Assistants; discussions with staff and pupil voice surveys, as well as reviewing parent feedback e.g. annual questionnaire responses and the feedback forms we receive at the end of the school year.

I am sure you will appreciate that ultimately we do not wish to have a small minority of children spoiling lunchtimes for the vast majority of children who do behave very well. The first approach to improving lunchtimes has therefore been to revise our existing Behaviour Policy. Our new policy contains separate arrangements for lunchtimes so that there are both positive and negative rewards/consequences under a new Red Card System. This zero-tolerance approach provides an instant consequence when inappropriate behaviour has been found to occur and ensures that senior leaders are involved at the most appropriate time. We also recognise how important it is for senior leaders to have a visible presence at lunchtimes so that issues can be swiftly addressed. Furthermore, we aim to eradicate the time spent by teachers in addressing issues after lunch as this is detracting from learning. **Attached with this letter you will find a copy of our new Behaviour Policy, with the changes made in red. I ask that you read this document so that you are able to support us in improving lunchtimes.**

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For your information, we have spent time introducing these changes to all the children so that they are clear on our expectations. We have been really pleased to see how well the children have received these changes, many telling us that they feel that this system will be better and make for happier lunchtimes. Assemblies all last week and today have enabled children to be introduced to very specific rules for different parts of lunchtimes – i.e. the dining hall, the playground and in the classrooms in the event of a wet play. Class Teachers have taught the children the specific rules for the different playground zones. Please be advised that we have worked with the borough's Corporate Health and Safety Advisor in creating these rules and our school's Risk Assessment. Each Year 1 to Year 6 class have been taught how to use the playground equipment safely – note that Year 1 children will only be permitted on the castle, the climbing blocks and supernova when they enter the Summer Term of each academic year.

The team of Midday Assistants are now meeting on a more regular basis with me, Mr Lowes and Mrs Duncan. Mrs Covey joins us for meetings that are more pertinent to the Early Years. This ensures that we are able to have a consistent approach to embedding our new lunchtime policy. We have planned to review and quality assure our new policies and procedures at the end of the term, in readiness for the new academic year.

While the playground looks fantastic at the moment, there are still further planned improvements. For example, we will be having a wide range of playground markings added over the summer holidays. We will also begin to work on the area adjacent to Harbury Road (where the old swimming pool used to be) to ensure this is a space conducive for learning and play. In addition, we have started to purchase new playground equipment for the quieter zones in the playground. **You may have seen that we now have a performance area; if any parent has any suitable 'props' e.g. hats, waistcoats, etc that the children can use as fancy dress when playing on our stage we would be most grateful. Please drop any such item in to the office. Thank you.**

We are all very excited to be focusing on improvements to our lunchtimes. We are keen for our playground, and indeed our wider school grounds, to be an engaging space for children to develop their social skills, encourage active play and stimulate their senses.

Finally, we very much recognise that an attractive playground is extremely tempting for children, including pre-schoolers, but we must ensure that safety is a priority. Therefore please do not allow your child to play on any of the equipment after school.

As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to speak with a member of the senior leadership team.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Louise Wood
Headteacher