



Thornliebank Primary School and Nursery Class



August 2020 Newsletter (1)

Dear Parents and Carers

First of all I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the new school and nursery year at Thornliebank, particularly to our new parents, carers and families. We are all delighted to be back here with the children after so much time apart and are very much looking forward to a busy and productive year. It will take time to get used to the changes around our buildings and outdoor spaces but we have had a great first few days and the children and adults are settling well into the new routines. We also really appreciate your support with our new ways of working, particularly in terms of dropping off and picking up your children. I hope that this newsletter will be a helpful reminder of all the new arrangements and if you have any further questions or queries please, as always, contact me via the school office.

Kind regards

Mrs Miller (Head Teacher)

Drop off and pick up arrangements

We will continue to follow the new arrangements, which are working well in terms of the guidance we are following about keeping class groups separate. We appreciate your support with this, and ask that you do not arrive too long before your child's designated drop off/pick up time. Please adhere to social distancing guidance if you are waiting outside the school gates. Times are as follows:

P1, P4 and P5: 8.55am - 2.55pm

P2, P6 and P7: 9.00am - 3.00pm

P3: 9.05am - 3.05pm

P1 to P3 will be invited into the playground shortly before their start time, and P4-7 must wait at their designated entry door if they arrive before their start time. Please note that there is no adult supervision in the playground until 8.45am.

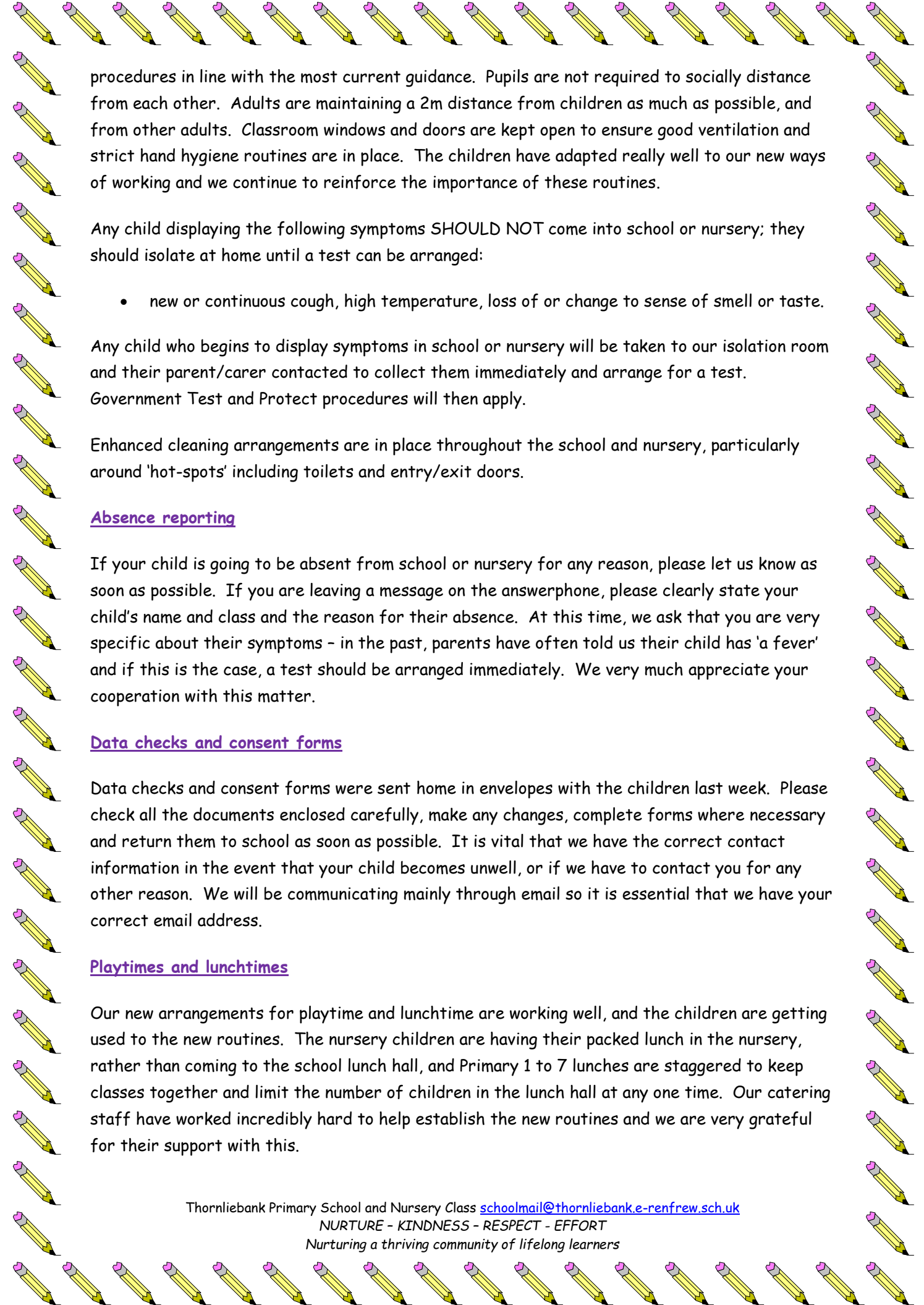
Health and safety procedures

We would like to reassure you of the amended Health and Safety procedures we have in place to ensure everyone's safety now we are all back in school and nursery. We are regularly reviewing our risk assessments, which are available to view on the school website, and are updating our

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procedures in line with the most current guidance. Pupils are not required to socially distance from each other. Adults are maintaining a 2m distance from children as much as possible, and from other adults. Classroom windows and doors are kept open to ensure good ventilation and strict hand hygiene routines are in place. The children have adapted really well to our new ways of working and we continue to reinforce the importance of these routines.

Any child displaying the following symptoms **SHOULD NOT** come into school or nursery; they should isolate at home until a test can be arranged:

- new or continuous cough, high temperature, loss of or change to sense of smell or taste.

Any child who begins to display symptoms in school or nursery will be taken to our isolation room and their parent/carer contacted to collect them immediately and arrange for a test. Government Test and Protect procedures will then apply.

Enhanced cleaning arrangements are in place throughout the school and nursery, particularly around 'hot-spots' including toilets and entry/exit doors.

Absence reporting

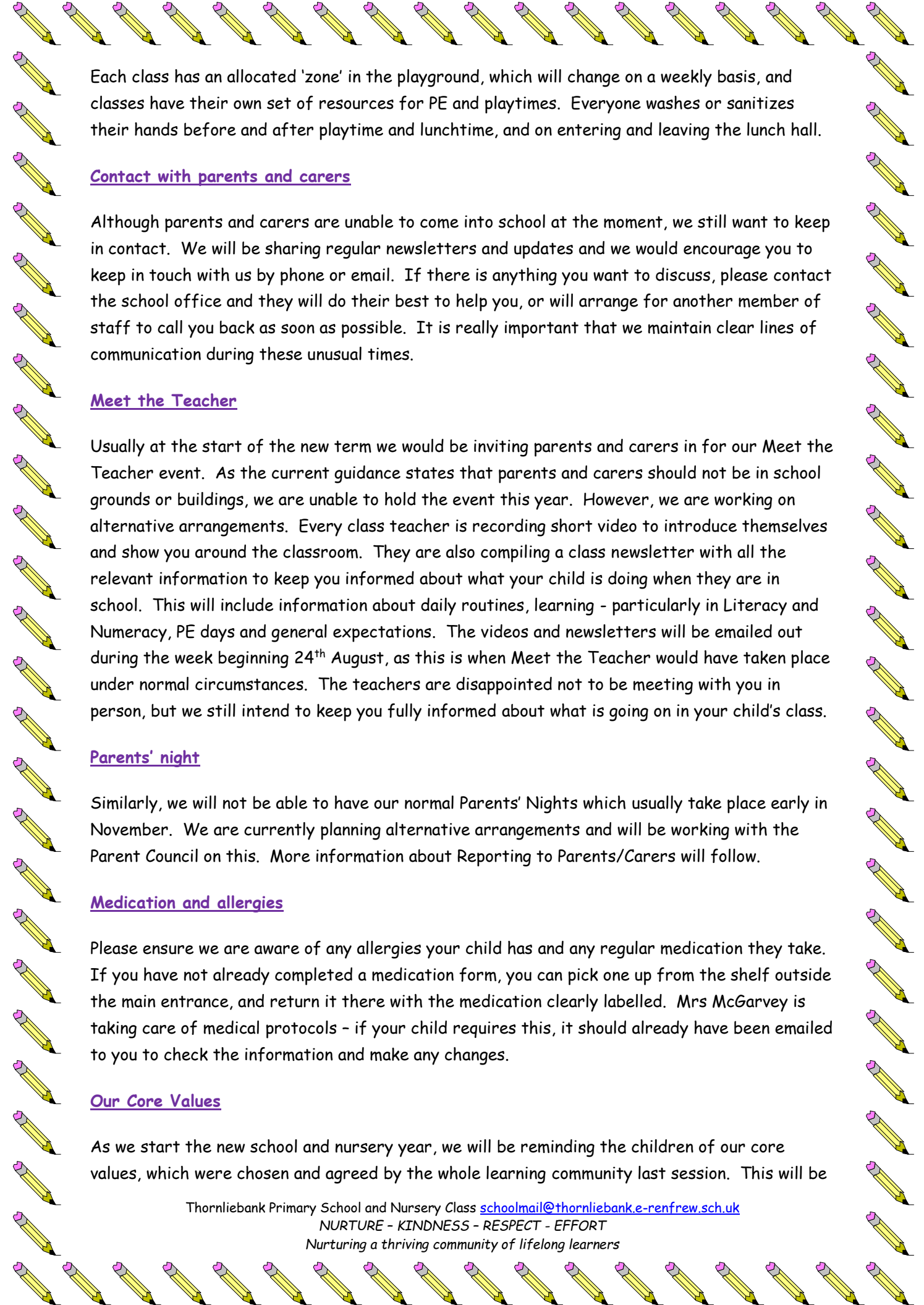
If your child is going to be absent from school or nursery for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible. If you are leaving a message on the answerphone, please clearly state your child's name and class and the reason for their absence. At this time, we ask that you are very specific about their symptoms - in the past, parents have often told us their child has 'a fever' and if this is the case, a test should be arranged immediately. We very much appreciate your cooperation with this matter.

Data checks and consent forms

Data checks and consent forms were sent home in envelopes with the children last week. Please check all the documents enclosed carefully, make any changes, complete forms where necessary and return them to school as soon as possible. It is vital that we have the correct contact information in the event that your child becomes unwell, or if we have to contact you for any other reason. We will be communicating mainly through email so it is essential that we have your correct email address.

Playtimes and lunchtimes

Our new arrangements for playtime and lunchtime are working well, and the children are getting used to the new routines. The nursery children are having their packed lunch in the nursery, rather than coming to the school lunch hall, and Primary 1 to 7 lunches are staggered to keep classes together and limit the number of children in the lunch hall at any one time. Our catering staff have worked incredibly hard to help establish the new routines and we are very grateful for their support with this.



Each class has an allocated 'zone' in the playground, which will change on a weekly basis, and classes have their own set of resources for PE and playtimes. Everyone washes or sanitizes their hands before and after playtime and lunchtime, and on entering and leaving the lunch hall.

Contact with parents and carers

Although parents and carers are unable to come into school at the moment, we still want to keep in contact. We will be sharing regular newsletters and updates and we would encourage you to keep in touch with us by phone or email. If there is anything you want to discuss, please contact the school office and they will do their best to help you, or will arrange for another member of staff to call you back as soon as possible. It is really important that we maintain clear lines of communication during these unusual times.

Meet the Teacher

Usually at the start of the new term we would be inviting parents and carers in for our Meet the Teacher event. As the current guidance states that parents and carers should not be in school grounds or buildings, we are unable to hold the event this year. However, we are working on alternative arrangements. Every class teacher is recording short video to introduce themselves and show you around the classroom. They are also compiling a class newsletter with all the relevant information to keep you informed about what your child is doing when they are in school. This will include information about daily routines, learning - particularly in Literacy and Numeracy, PE days and general expectations. The videos and newsletters will be emailed out during the week beginning 24th August, as this is when Meet the Teacher would have taken place under normal circumstances. The teachers are disappointed not to be meeting with you in person, but we still intend to keep you fully informed about what is going on in your child's class.

Parents' night

Similarly, we will not be able to have our normal Parents' Nights which usually take place early in November. We are currently planning alternative arrangements and will be working with the Parent Council on this. More information about Reporting to Parents/Carers will follow.

Medication and allergies

Please ensure we are aware of any allergies your child has and any regular medication they take. If you have not already completed a medication form, you can pick one up from the shelf outside the main entrance, and return it there with the medication clearly labelled. Mrs McGarvey is taking care of medical protocols - if your child requires this, it should already have been emailed to you to check the information and make any changes.

Our Core Values

As we start the new school and nursery year, we will be reminding the children of our core values, which were chosen and agreed by the whole learning community last session. This will be

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done in classes and through video messages from Mrs Miller, Mrs Wilson and Mrs McGarvey. Our core values are NURTURE, KINDNESS, RESPECT and EFFORT. We are keen to see everyone in our learning community embodying these values and putting them into practice in school and nursery every day.

Celebrating achievements

Although we are unable to gather for assemblies at the moment, we will still be celebrating the children's achievements. Every member of staff is able to nominate children for certificates, which will be delivered to classes on a Friday. Some children have already had certificates this year for showing kindness and respect - two of our core values. Staff will also be sending 'Positive Notes' home to share achievements in class, and we will be starting Treat Friday to recognise excellent behaviour.

School website and Twitter

As well as communicating via email, we will be using the school and nursery Twitter pages and the school website to share information. Please follow us on Twitter @ThornliebankPS and @ThornliebankNC and check the website regularly for updates and photos of the children in school and nursery. Social media permissions were included in the data check packs that were issued to every child last Friday - please complete the forms and return them to school as soon as possible. We will not share any images of children on social media without consent from their parent/carer.



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