Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely summer!

Thank you for your understanding with the quick change to the school day. It was something that had come up from just at the end of term and we wanted to start straight away so the children quickly got into the routines. It seems to be working. The children are coming in calmly and ready to learn.

We have super news from West Lancs. Sports Partnership (WLSP). We have been informed we have been successful in achieving a Platinum Games Mark award- only one out of four in West Lancashire! Well done children- and big thanks to the parents who gave up their time, ferrying the children to events to make it possible. Our final entry was a video of the children’s fantastic Dance Fever pieces. We were so proud of the children for choreographing their own dances. They were fantastic!

We have been asking WLSP for afternoon slots for PE and swimming all year and we finally have success! I am sorry that it will mean nursery children may have to change days but it does mean the older children can have full mornings of English and Maths.

**Swimming** will be starting in the **afternoon of Thursday 12th September**. We will travel straight after dinner so nursery children will need to book in from 12.30pm to catch swimming. At the moment, we are thinking nursery will swim every week and the rest of the school alternate weeks as before. **Group a**: Nursery, Ash Class and Years 5 and 6, will go next week, Thursday 12th September. Group b: Nursery, Years 3 and 4 will start swimming on Thursday 19th September and we will alternate weeks after that.

Please make sure children have: hats, goggles (if they need them), a costume, a towel and a bag to put them in each week and remember to take them home for washing afterward! We do have a few spares but they are not particularly nice. If you have any difficulties please let us know in advance.

We will now be having **PE on a Monday afternoon**. We will also be having a sporty lunch club and an afterschool club. Once the instructor has been in, we will sign people up. Please make sure children have a PE kit, pumps, plain shorts and t-shirt-in yellow, dark green or black. They will need a warmer tracksuit and hoody soon. Please make sure kits are labelled and in a bag.

I will get a newsletter out later this month but dates we have so far are:

* Harvest at The Good Shepherd Mission Monday 23rd September at 9.30am. All welcome and please send in food donations for the harvest collection.
* School photographs are Thursday 26th September. Please arrange with Mrs Halstead if you wish younger siblings to pop in and be on the picture.

Nursey and After School Club are now officially part of school. Parent pay is in the process of being set up. As soon as we have logins we will let you know what to do. Please bear with us and pay in the old way until then.

Mrs Donnelly has secured a new job over the holidays working with horsey things close to her horse’s stables. People will need to ring school to book in After School Club. We are no longer going out to pick up other schools. We will be offering theme nights shortly so please look out for the fliers. Payments at the moment stay the same. Once we have decided on our format we will let you all know.

We have been busy writing a new brochure for prospective parents but also to keep you all informed of routines and expectations. There will be new policies coming out on our website once they have been to governors. This will inform you of our Teaching and Learning Policy and our Marking and Feedback Policy. We have also updated our Behaviour Policy with the new rewards system.

We have included a ‘Home School Agreement’ with our new brochure. Please read it over with your child or children. This is a contract between you, your children and ourselves so everyone is aware of expectations and agree to abide by them. We would like signed copies returned to school as soon as possible and no later than Friday 20th September 2019. We will give you a copy and keep one in school. At the beginning of each term we will revisit our expectations so they are fresh in everyone’s minds.

Our new Key Stage 2 teacher, Mrs Zaim, has already settled in. She is organising our first trip of the year. We are going to Liverpool. This will fit in with our Topic of ‘Home Sweet Home’. The children will be looking at our local area, the history, the Tate gallery, going on the ferry across the Mersey and the younger children will be visiting ‘Mermaid House’. We really need parents, grandparents or carers to come and help. If you can come please let us know as soon as possible so we can book the right seats on the coach.

Some parents had kindly said they would come and talk to the children about their jobs during assembly. I will put a timetable on the Parents Notice board. Please sign up or let us know when you are available. It will really give children an insight and inspire them.

I think that is quite enough information for now! Kindest regards, Mrs Tjaveondja