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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the new term. I hope you all had a good holiday and the children and yourselves are ready to work together with school to give the best experiences we can for the children. Our inspection report was released on July 23rd and I hope you have had time to read through it. It demonstrates how hard staff, governors, parents and pupils have worked in the time I became Headteacher to secure Good for every criteria. The school learning environment, methods of teaching and the whole school nurturing ethos are fully reflected in the report and I'd like to personally thank you all for working with me to secure 'Good' throughout! Dan Furtek, our Chair of Governors, will also be sending out a summary of the report for your information.

To continue with the hard work we have plenty of exciting activities planned and if you'd like to know what they are, there is a calendar available detailing all the dates and activities/ workshops / coffee mornings and much more. This can be purchased from the School Office for £2.

PTA

This year Mrs Brake will be working alongside the PTA and school encouraging you to become actively involved in your child's learning. If you'd like to become involved please contact the school or Mrs Brake.

Attendance

One of our Estyn recommendations is to improve attendance. This means alongside Welsh Government requirements we now have an Estyn requirement to improve. Our attendance was in the lowest quarter for the whole of Caerphilly. Miss Stow will be leading on managing attendance alongside Mrs Pewtner our EWO and this year we will be starting right from nursery. Can I please ask that you bring your children to school on time and collect them on time. We keep a record of late comers plus those parents who pick their children up early on a regular basis. These parents will be invited in to discuss this in order for us to offer support if possible. If you do need to take your child to the dentist or for a medical appointment can you please bring a copy of the letter where possible for our records. Regular attendance is so important if you want your child to achieve their best. Just 10 minutes late a day adds up and they could be missing phonic time, Welsh input or reading.

Uniform

It is so lovely to see so many children in their full uniform. All the children should have been given PE bags. And it would be helpful if kit could stay in school for the half term, to go home for washing in the holidays. If children don't have their PE kit they won't be able to join in. Earrings must be removed and no other jewellery is allowed in school. School shoes need to be black. When all the children wear their uniform

they form part of our whole school family. Can I also remind you to label all their uniform including shoes and socks as one jumper looks the same as another and can easily become mixed up and lost!

Healthy Schools

We are a healthy school and we therefore ask children to bring in whole fruit or vegetables for their snacks and only water in their drinks bottles they have in class. All children are given the option of milk daily. If your child has an allergy please ensure the class teacher is made aware of this. School dinners now cost £2.10 and must be paid for weekly up front. Please send in money in an envelope labelled with your child's name and class and posted in the box in reception. Class teachers cannot accept the money from you. If you are entitled to free school meals please apply. Forms are available at the reception. Mrs Marshman is more than happy to advise you how to proceed with making a claim. The more children who claim the more money that is allocated to the school for the children. I would also ask that pack lunches include a balance of healthy foods. We do not allow sweets in school and due to pupils with allergies we also ask for you not to send in nuts. We really want to keep the healthy school status we have achieved.

Concerns and Queries

I hope your child has settled into their new class. If you have any questions please speak to the class teacher. Please make sure you are signed up to Class Dojo as all messages are communicated via this platform. If you are still not happy following speaking to your child's teacher please make an appointment to speak to my Deputy Head, Mrs Haggett. If you still have further questions then please make an appointment to see me.

Social Media

We have both a twitter account @HendreInfants and we have a Facebook account. We also have a website <http://www.hendreinfauntschool.co.uk> . We do our best to update each of these as often as possible in order that we can share as much news as possible with you. Could I ask if you have a particular question that you come and speak to the teacher or myself in person: Facebook and Twitter are used to celebrate work and achievement and answer whole school queries where possible.

The teachers will give you an overview of the class routine, PE days and forest school days. We go outside daily come rain or shine so can I ask that you send in a waterproof warm, labelled coat for your child and a pair of wellies where possible.

I know there is a lot of information to digest. If there is anything you need clarifying or you'd like to ask about don't hesitate to pop in and we will endeavour to help you.

Kindest Regards



Mrs Andrea Brett-Harris