



Dear Families,

**THIS WEEK WE WELCOMED OUR NEW RECEPTION CHILDREN TO SCHOOL**  
**Next week we look forward to them staying for lunch!**

Today is national Teaching Assistants' Day.

Please join us in recognising the amazing contribution TAs make to the learning and progress of our children.

Now that timetables are finalised the signs on classroom doors are being updated to include the very important additional TAs you will see supporting learning in your child's class.

We have had a wonderfully calm start to the school year. The children are settling well into new routines. The Year 1 children are enjoying using the outdoor space and the mud kitchen in the woods is a massive hit! (any donations of pot/ pans or utensils gratefully received!)

Afterschool clubs for Year1 and 2 start next week. I hope children were happy with their selection. The small charge covers the cost of staff and materials.

We hope the payment system has worked for you. If you aren't able to come in person we are happy for someone to drop the money in e.g. via Chestnuts etc as long as it is clearly labelled. Unfortunately we aren't able to extend parentmail to cover payments as we don't have enough volume to justify the cost. We are unable to offer refunds if your child drops out as we will not be reallocating spaces due to the shorter blocks of time.

### Attendance- holidays

We have had a number of children who have returned late from holidays abroad- but fewer than last year

The Governing Board policy for reducing absence in term time includes the provision for issuing penalty notices for unauthorised absences. We do not routinely do this. The decision rests with the Headteacher

As a school we recognise the importance of staying in touch with family who are overseas, we value the experiences that travel offers and we understand how expensive travel in holiday time is. For this reason, whilst not authorising holiday absences we will only issue fines where it is clear that parents have not been open about plans.

If you are going to miss school for travel please tell us and we will not fine- unless your child's attendance is a concern. .

Emergencies do happen and plans do sometimes need to be changed- we will ask to see your original booking and will consider a fine if it is clear that there was no intention to be back in time for school.

I know that Forest gate has different holiday dates to local primary schools. We will not issue fines if our children miss school because of this difference (unless you don't tell us...)



### After school use of the school grounds

We welcome children to stay and play under parental supervision at the end of the school day.

For health and safety reasons I ask that scooters and bikes ARE NOT ridden in the playground until the gates are closed and the crowd has thinned out.

Bikes and scooters should not be ridden at school at the start of the day.

Please keep an eye on your children and ensure they are playing safely.

Dogs and smoking are not allowed on school grounds at any time

Thank you for your help... enjoy the space.

School term dates and other important diary dates can be found on the calendar on the website. This will be updated as dates are finalised and I will also flag them up on this newsletter.

Have an amazing weekend

**Sarah & Staff**