

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Welcome to our first newsletter of this new year!

At the end of this first week back, I am pleased to report that all children have settled well and behaviour has been fantastic.

Sadly, the end of this week has been saddened by the news of HM Queen Elizabeth's passing. I hope you would join us in sending condolences to the new king and all his family.

We had a special assembly this morning to remember and celebrate the queen and give the children the opportunity to ask questions.

They have also been doing work in class to honour and celebrate her life.

There has been advice from the Department For Education about closure during the national period of mourning. They say that there is no plan for any closures of schools, colleges and nurseries. There may be a closure for the day of the funeral but we have not heard anything yet.

### **Uniform**

We are still continuing the practice of children coming to school in PE kit as it saves so much time and children get more time in the lesson. Can we please make sure children have a white T-shirt for PE please. Please do not send children in any other colours.

I would also ask that jumpers and cardigans have a name or initials in to help us (and you) match them up with their owner.

### **Admissions and Dinners**

Some of our Reception parents have not yet filled in the details for free school meals. All infants are entitled to what we call Universal Free School Meals but there is also Benefits Related Free School Meals which generates money for the school. If there are any parents who are in receipt of benefits then please fill out the form here...

<https://cyp.halton.gov.uk/Synergy/Live/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>

Please ask in the office if you have any questions.

This link also contains the forms for admissions to reception next year as well as high school applications. The portal opens on Monday.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Both of these have continued to suffer after covid. I have asked our Educational Welfare Officer, Sam Yates, to spend more time here to help and support families.

She will be here at least one day a week and will also be making some calls to offer advice and support to any families who we identify as being below the expected levels.

Please do not be alarmed if you get a call, it is supportive.

## Support Dog

You may remember that I wrote to you last term about having a dog in school as an incentive for children and to help with well-being and mental health. I will re-send the information for new parents.

Rosie has been with us a few times this week and it has gone really well.

She has spent time in each class and she is getting to know us.

Here she is at the fire station garden with Grizedale.



Updates and info are easily viewable at

<https://www.woodsideprimary.co.uk/>

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Thank you and have a lovely weekend ☺