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3 October 2008

Dear Parents

A very successful start to the new school year with ten of our eleven new pupils happily attending every morning, most staying to lunch and afternoon club and two brave souls 'loving' coming to school on the bus! The rest of the children have settled in really well into their new year groups and are all working hard - just as we like it.

French

Class 2 have begun French lessons with Madame Der. She is a DASP specialist French teacher from St Osmunds Middle School. How lucky are we to have a specialist teacher for such young children. They are all participating in the lessons, no one is shying out and I am sure this will give them a sound foundation for learning lots of other languages as they move on through their lives.

Music lessons

Lots of children have started their music tuition this term and things are going really well. Some of them have performed at assembly and we are really impressed on how well they are all doing. Guitar, keyboard, flute and clarinet lessons are happening currently and hopefully drums will begin soon.

Parent consultations

Next week - Wednesday 8 October - is our open morning when you can come in to share your child's work with them. Later that evening Class 1 consultations take place and Class 2 will be on Thursday 9 October. A list will be left in the entrance hall on Monday.

Laptops

The new laptop scheme is going really well. All parents have signed up and the children are loving bringing them home. Hopefully you will see an even bigger improvement in your child's ICT skill. A big thank you to Mr D for setting up the scheme.

### Walk to school week

Next week is 'Walk to school' week and I am sure if you were in an inner city or town area you would do just that. It is not so easy for you - and we do appreciate that. However, if you're not doing it already, maybe you could try cycling or scooting or car sharing. We do realise that you are already doing these things and please DO NOT put your family in any danger.

### Water Bottles

As you know, we have provided the children with bottles of water for some considerable time now, particularly related to our wanting the children to make healthy options. These are topped up by the children, as and when, and replaced half termly. It has been brought to my attention that, because these are not sterilised regularly, they could harbour germs. I will be consulting with county next week and will inform you of our next steps as soon as possible. If you would prefer for your child to bring in their own bottle, which they would take home each night for you to clean and refill, then please do so. We will then dispose of the bottle they have in school. Our reason for providing the water was to ensure each child had constant access to fresh water.

### Coats

Please, please, please send your child into school with a coat. It is often very cold in our playground which is north facing, particularly in the morning.

### Flora, box tops etc

Sandy has been updating the Flora website with your tokens - please keep sending them in - the finishing date is 30 October and we are currently at £20. Yvonne has been collecting the Nestle Box Tops and has recently received a cheque for £19.20 from them for the school. This is ongoing so, again, please keep bringing the tokens to school. Thank you! We will use the money wisely!

### Start and finish times

Can I remind everyone that our school day begins at 8.50am. Staff are not responsible for the children before this time so please do not leave your child/ren unattended in the front playground. This time is allocated for staff to set up for the day. Our day finishes at 3.15pm and often staff have meetings to attend or again are working. Please try to collect your child/ren on time. Thank you.

Kind regards

Ann Herridge