

April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of term and the Easter break, I am writing to provide some information and updates about the school.

### **COVID-19 and the re-opening of the school**

We were all delighted to see the pupils back in school. The school has continued to update and implement measures to keep children and adults safe. This includes the continued use of year 'bubbles', increased mask wearing and the use of lateral flow tests both in school and at home.

Thank you to everyone in the school community for their continued support during these difficult times.

### **New Headteacher appointed**

Governors are delighted to inform you that Neil Warner has been appointed as the new Headteacher from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

Neil is a highly experienced school leader, National Leader of Education and Lead Ofsted Inspector. He is also a former member of staff at Yardleys having been an Assistant Head and Acting Deputy Headteacher, before he moved to his first Headship. Neil will be joining us from his current role as Director of Education at the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership. He is delighted to be returning to Yardleys as our new Headteacher, a school which, in his words, holds a special place in his heart.

Mr Warner stated that he was *"truly delighted to have been given the opportunity to lead the school from September 2021 into the next stage of its development. I know I will be joining a committed school community and I am extremely looking forward to working alongside you all."*

### **Uniform**

We continue to expect high standards of uniform from pupils. Pupils need to wear black leather/leather look shoes (not boots, trainers or canvas shoes); loose fitting trousers or skirts to an appropriate length (no jeans, leggings or rolled up trousers); no jewellery other than plain stud earrings and no excessive makeup. Please see the school website for further information.

### **Lunchtime Catering & Free School Meals**

Our catering providers, Aspens, have communicated the following reassurances to pupils, parents and staff:

- Aspens continue to follow government guidance and advice, especially around social distancing, food safety and enhanced cleaning
- There continues to be enhanced food hygiene measures including during delivery, handling, and preparation and serving of food
- Catering staff have received specific Covid-19 training and certified 'fit to work'
- We can assure you that despite a reduced range of food (due to serving in three venues across split lunch times) we will continue to offer good quality, nutritious food in line with government school food standards.

HEADTEACHER: Mr. B. Evans BA (Hons), NPQH  
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We understand that there may be some families that have had a change in financial circumstances and may now be entitled to apply for Free School Meals. Please contact Ms O'Donovan on 0121 675 2340 who will be able to run an eligibility check on your behalf.

#### **Olive School**

As many of you will have seen, there is a new primary school – Olive School – opening next door to Yardleys, from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Please note that although the new school has facilities to drop off and pick up children within their school premises, we believe that there will be additional traffic outside our entrance at the start and end of the day.

#### **Car Parking**

Both the school and the police have received several complaints from local residents regarding cars being parked across entrance ways, or blocking local people from travelling to and from their properties.

Please could I ask that any parking follows road signage and is considerate to our local residents and our neighbours.

I hope you all have a restful and safe Easter holiday break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brynley Evans', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

**Brynley Evans**  
**Headteacher**