



Friday 6th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year at The Ridge. I hope that you had a good summer and were able to enjoy some quality time with your children. It is lovely to see everyone back for the new year looking rested and excited for a new year ahead.

At the start of this new term we are pleased to welcome some new people to the team. We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Lara Melia, our new teacher in Reception and Early Years Lead, Miss. Emily Thompson, who will be teaching Year 5 and Mrs. Lucy Collett, who will be working predominantly in Reception and Key Stage 1 to provide non-contact time for class teachers. Another change is that of the role of Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator or SENCo. In this role will be Mrs. Deb Hunt who will be available in school each week, usually on a Wednesday.

The provisional dates that we have set for this year can be found on the school website (www.ridge.dudley.sch.uk) on the 'Calendar' tab: We are happy to be able to publish these early on in the term, but as always, ask you to bear with us should we need to alter any of them as the year progresses.

We have issued our 'Emergency Contact' Form. Please return this to school by Monday 9th September as it vital that we have up to date information in order for us to be able to inform you if your child is unwell or has an accident. Please remember to let us know if any of these details (especially mobile numbers or newly diagnosed medical conditions) change during the school year. We have also issued a number of other permission forms for children in those classes where we need to obtain permission for the use of photographs, apps and our texting service. If you wish to review or change the permission that you have already given, please contact the school office. The new Privacy Notice is also on the website, setting out what information we collect and how we use it.

We will soon be publishing a newsletter with lots of information we want to share with you at the start of this new school year – we will send a text to let you know that it has been uploaded to the website.

Please can I take this opportunity to ask you to avoid sending peanuts or peanut based products into school. This includes the use of peanut butter in packed lunches 'birthday' sweets or chocolates which contain peanuts. A number of our pupils have allergies which can result in an anaphylactic reaction and may be life threatening.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful year ahead. We trust that the children settle quickly into their new classes, but as always, please do share any concerns you might have. In most cases the class teacher should be your first point of contact. They might already be aware of the situation and are on hand to be able to talk to your child about any problems. However, all the adults in school are committed to working with parents and carers so, please don't hesitate to speak to Miss Beddoes, Mrs Hadley, myself or the School Office if you think that we can help.

With best wishes for the new school year,

Mrs. D. Hudson
Headteacher



