

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

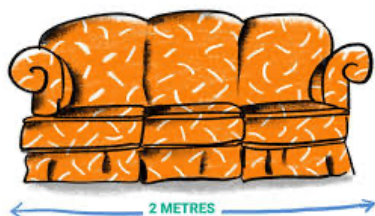
What a week it has been! Your children have astounded us all here at Penpol with the level of enthusiasm, energy and kindness shown to one another. It is an absolute delight to see the sheer volume of activity taking place across the school.

## Morning Drop Off

Thank you all for your support in adapting to our new drop off and collection routines. In order to space arrival times out further, we will now move to a more flexible approach: Children in each class are now able to arrive at any point between 8:45am and 9:05am, using the existing entry points. If you are able to arrive later in this time slot, please do as this will alleviate pressure at the busiest times. We are working at plans to reintroduce wraparound care as soon as possible. In the meantime, please do speak with me if its temporary absence is causing difficulties for your family.

## Keeping Safe Onsite

It is absolutely paramount that our school remains open to all and that we keep every member of our community as safe as possible. Therefore, we ask for your continued support whilst on and near the school site:



- Please do not arrive earlier than 8:45am.
- Please keep moving on site where safe to do so. Waiting and meeting others causes a build-up of pedestrians and added risk to all.
- Please maintain a distance of 2 metres from other households and from our team. This is approximately the same length as a large sofa.

Each of these requests feels entirely counter-intuitive for a school which values our home/school relationships so warmly. However, it is essential that we all please play our part in keeping our children, their families and our team safe and able to come to school.

## Keeping Safe Online

You may have been made aware of a particular concern relating to social media platforms in the past week. We are also very conscious of the fact that some children have been spending more time than ever online and that new and potentially dangerous behaviours can quickly become normalised if left unchecked. Whilst your children may be the internet experts at home, you remain the safety experts and regular, open and honest conversations about their internet use is a vital part of keeping them safe. We continue our robust and extensive e-safety curriculum at school and our website contains useful links to supportive resources for home. As always, please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns at all. You may also be interested in the following article:

<https://parentinfo.org/article/are-you-worried-your-child-might-see-something-inappropriate-online>.



## Outdoor Learning

As you know, we are engaging in more outdoor learning than ever and you can safely assume that your child will be making use of our wider site during their learning time each day. As the weather grows colder and wetter, please do ensure that they arrive at school with an appropriate coat and footwear.

## Uniform

Thank you for your impressive speed in securing uniform items for your child. As discussed during the summer, we will now work towards reintroducing our uniform policy. From Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, we ask that all children do wear their school uniform please. However, we will continue to leave ties at home for the time being. As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch should this present any challenges at all.

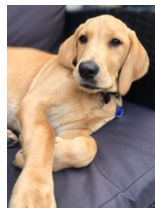
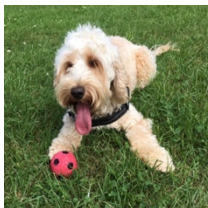
## Wednesday Afternoon Learning

During our temporary arrangement of an early finish on Wednesdays, we will provide learning challenges for your child via our remote learning page on the school website, with Mr Woolcock's help. Over the next few weeks, this will incorporate challenges from across curriculum. This week's learning can be found here: <https://www.penpolschool.co.uk/wednesday-9th-september/>. Your child's class teacher will also set some home learning challenges as the term progresses. If you would like to discuss the level of learning provided, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

## Assemblies

We are grateful that families are following government advice following potential symptoms of COVID-19 and recognise that this will lead to a small number of children from across the school remaining at home at any given point. Therefore, we will continue to record our assemblies online so that we are able to share these with classes in school and any pupils self-isolating at home.

## Paw Patrol



Finally, I would like to thank our very own paw patrol – Betsy and newcomer Wilfred – for their amazing work in helping us all settle back into school routines. Safety is our priority and their training is taken very seriously. They are working wonders in supporting our calm and positive school environment and are another way that we support the social and emotional needs of our community. Tiffany Pope, our deputy headteacher, will write to you in the coming weeks to share what they have been up to.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend. Many thanks for your continued support.

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