



# Cavalry Primary School

Cavalry Drive, March

Cambridgeshire

PE15 9EQ

01354 652814

Headteacher: Mrs F M<sup>c</sup>Callum

[www.cavalry.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.cavalry.cambs.sch.uk)



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Tel: 01354 652814

Email: [admin@cavalryprimary.org](mailto:admin@cavalryprimary.org)

Fax: 01354 658094

Monday 7th September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! It really was so lovely to see all the children today. We know there were some children feeling a bit 'wobbly' at the start of the day, which is only to be expected after such a disrupted year. However they have all settled in very quickly and seemed so happy to be with their friends and meeting new staff. Thank you all for getting to grips with the staggered start/finish times, one way system and for keeping your distance from other families - your support is very much appreciated.

Just a few reminders and updates:

We have several children and staff in school with nut allergies so we must request that children do not bring any products containing nuts in their packed lunches. This includes chocolate spreads such as nutella.

Parents have been asking about whether or not children can bring backpacks to school. We need to keep the number items the children bring in from home to a minimum at the moment because our cloakrooms are small and often shared between more than one class. In some year groups, children are keeping their coats, book bags and lunch boxes in the classrooms so that cloakrooms are only used for PE bags. Therefore if you can manage without using a backpack on a daily basis that would be a huge help to us. However I know some children use a backpack to contain their PE kit and that's fine - they can hang their backpack in the cloakroom now and take it home again when the contents need a wash. It is important that the children don't bring in any other items from home - just their book bag, water bottle, and packed lunch where applicable.

Swimming lessons - we have taken the decision not to commence weekly swimming lessons for any year group at this point in time. We will keep the situation under review and when we can start swimming again, we will let you know our plans.

You will appreciate that the start of term is exceptionally busy for staff this year, as there are quite a few routine tasks we normally complete each July which we have had to move to September. One such task is organising new reading books for each child. This week it is going to take us a little longer than usual to get all children set up with new reading books so please bear with us, we will sort this out as quickly as we can. We are not going to rush into assessing every child and changing their book band or accelerated reader range in the first few days of term as we think all the children need a bit of time to settle in and remember how to apply all the reading skills they know. However later this month, teachers will review each child's reading level and adjust their books accordingly. Please help us by getting back into the routine of reading with your child as often as possible if they are in the younger classes, or encouraging them to spend time every day reading independently if they are in the older classes.

Finally, please remember to get in touch if you have any questions, concerns or worries. Staff will be able to have a quick word with you at the beginning or end of the school day, and are happy to phone you at a convenient time if you prefer a longer discussion. There will always be a member of our leadership team on duty in the mornings, or you can telephone/email the school office. I hope your child or children will thoroughly enjoy the year ahead. Even in these unusual times, we will do our best to make sure that the children are learning safely and happily every day.

Yours sincerely

Fiona McCallum  
Headteacher