



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

# IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr Martin Brown

Compassion

Achievement

Respect

Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our learning community*

8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Natasha's Law - Canteen Food**

You may be aware that a new law came into effect this week, it is called Natasha's Law, in response to the tragic death of a teenager in 2016 after eating a baguette from a take-away, she went into anaphylaxis shortly after finishing her food. The new law requires all pre-packaged food to be labelled with the full ingredients. This means detailing every constituent element of the food. In school this largely refers to sandwiches, most other food is served open. This may, in the short term, mean we are offering a slightly reduced range of food as we upload the detailed ingredients of every filling we use.

### **Consultation Evenings**

We are very thankful that Covid infection rates remain low in this locality and school appears to be experiencing very little disruption. We are conscious that we need continued vigilance and to avoid any unnecessary risks. Our parents' Essential Information Evenings work well and we are managing numbers by holding repeat sessions and asking parents to book slots.

From November onwards, we will start to hold a number of parental consultation evenings. Last year these were all virtual and we received a great deal of very positive feedback. Parents valued the immediacy of the meetings, without the need to travel to the school site and navigate numerous rooms and queues. This year we intend to retain virtual consultation evenings as we believe they are very effective. We know they are popular and critically, in a period when infection rates, nationally, remain high we think they are safe and therefore appropriate. Prior to each of our planned consultation evenings you will receive information about booking video meetings with your son/daughter's teachers.

### **Continued Lateral Flow Testing**

The school receives regular updates from the DfE, often regarding Covid related matters. The most recent of these asks that schools remind parents about the challenges associated with asymptomatic transmission. We are told that up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. We are all, therefore, encouraged to continue to use lateral flow tests, at least twice a week.

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### **Mental Health**

As we recover from the pandemic there continues to be a focus on mental health, particularly for young people. West Sussex County Council have created some resources to help young people, parents and teachers. To access some of the available resources please follow this [link](#).

### **Governors**

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Michele Brooks who has joined our governing body as a Parent Governor. We have a very committed and effective governing body who work hard to support the school in the work we do, I am very grateful for their efforts and the time they give.

### **Open Evening Feedback**

You may be aware that we held our Open Evening last week, on Thursday. It was extremely well attended and ran across both sites. A key feature, in recent years, has been that we use student guides to show parents around the school. The feedback on our student guides was fabulous. Visiting families were struck by their maturity, friendliness and great positivity. I felt very proud to see how remarkably good they all were when guiding and supporting parents at our event. On more than one occasion a visiting parent would point towards their guide and say 'I would like my child to grow up just like them'. I cannot think of a greater plaudit to receive.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown  
Headteacher