



4th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

New Academic Year 2024-2025

I hope you enjoyed a restful summer break and that the children in Years 1-6 are eager to return to school tomorrow. We look forward to welcoming our Reception Class to school on Monday and Tuesday next week, and extend a very warm welcome to all new families joining Tatsfield this year!

The staff team are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school and I hope these reminders are helpful for a smooth and positive start to the new year:

Attendance

- the school gates open at 8.30am and all children in every year group can go straight to class
- the school day for all pupils begins at 8.40am. Any pupil arriving after 8.40am is marked as 'late'
- term dates for 2024-2025 are on [our school website](#); holidays taken during term time are not authorised
- we will be sharing more information and guidance about school attendance and punctuality with you all over the next few weeks

Uniform

- the full school uniform list is on our [school website](#)
- children should wear black shoes with their uniform (boots or trainers should not be worn unless there is a medical need and arrangements have been made with the school)
- earrings should not be worn
- wrist watches can be worn but SMART watches are not allowed at school
- PE uniform can be worn on PE days – teachers will confirm this information with parents tomorrow

Healthy School

We are a [Surrey Healthy School](#). As part of our commitment to this approach, we are making some healthy changes for the benefit of all pupils:

- we are a nut-free school – no nuts should be brought into school
- children should only bring water to school (no squash, juice, smoothies or flavoured water)
- birthday treats will not be handed out at the end of the school day (no cakes, sweets or other treats should be handed out on school grounds)
- children in EY and KS1 are offered a piece of fruit for breaktime every day
- children in KS2 can bring a piece of fruit from home into school for breaktime each day (no cereal bars, fruit winders, crisps or cakes)
- milk is available for pupils in EY and KS1

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- packed lunches should be healthy and balanced and should not contain chocolate bars or sweets (helpful information about packed lunches can be found on the [British Nutrition Foundation](#) website)
- snacks children eat before an after school club should be healthy choices (sandwich, wrap, rice cakes) avoiding crisps and cakes wherever possible

We will speak to the children in class and assemblies about drinking water at school, eating fruit at breaktimes and no birthday treats at school at the end of the day. We welcome your support with these adaptations. There are lots of opportunities for sweet treats at various points throughout the school year (including our PTA Cake Sales) as well as enjoying sweets and chocolates out of school. Removing the birthday treats at the end of the school day will significantly reduce the amount of sugar offered to our pupils each week and will also minimise the risk of any medical issues through allergies or dietary requirements.

Mobile Phones

Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones into the classroom. Signed parental permission must be given for pupils in Year 6 who walk to school on their own and who may have a mobile phone. Information will be sent to Year 6 parents separately about this.

Medication

Pupils who require prescribed medication at school must have a Health Care Plan written and agreed by the parents and school – this includes asthma and epi-pens. The school office will be in touch with parents about where Health Care Plans need to be written or reviewed. It is parents' responsibility to check that medication held at school is in date.

School can administer prescribed medication (eg antibiotics) if children are well enough to be in school, but paperwork from the school office must be completed by parents.

Emergency contacts and parent consents

Please do check your child's Arbor record to ensure that named emergency contacts are up to date and parental consents are all accurate.

If there are changes to the adults who normally collect your child at the end of the school day – this must be confirmed with the school office with the name of the adult collecting the child, even if the adult is known to the child. If a new adult is collecting your child and it is not part of the normal collection arrangements, the school will not let the child go home until confirmation has been received by the parents.

Car parking

Thank you to everyone last year who was more vigilant with parking arrangements in the car park at the end of the school day. A reminder:

- children's safety has to be at the forefront of everyone's minds when they park their cars.
- it is essential that cars are parked appropriately in the designated spaces and do not block crossing points or lines of vision.
- if there is no space in the car park to park in a designated car parking space, a space should be found in one of the side streets in the village.
- only cars displaying Blue Badges should park in accessible parking spaces.
- parents who wish to collect their children from the 'drop off point' by the gates near Year 1 should email the school with consent so that children can walk to the 'drop off point' at the end of the school day.

Please ensure that engines are switched off when cars are parked and waiting for the children. Engine idling increases the amount of exhaust fumes in the air, which is dangerous for health (particularly children and adults with asthma or other lung diseases) as well as being harmful to the environment.

Please do share these guidelines with any family members or friends who may collect your children and follow any instructions or guidance from the school if a car needs to be moved.

Parent support/volunteers

If parents/grandparents are interested in becoming a volunteer at Tatsfield, please do email the [school office](#). Time could be offered as a volunteer reader or by running a lunchtime/after school activity. Safer recruitment procedures are in place for volunteers and a DBS check and safeguarding induction is carried out prior to the volunteering placement starting.

Class teachers will be in touch with parents this week to introduce themselves and share more information about the classes. More news and information will then be shared on our school website and in newsletters in the first few weeks of term.

We are all looking forward to a successful and positive partnership with our families at Tatsfield this year.

Best wishes



Rachel Jewitt
Headteacher