

3rd September 2026

Dear parent / carer,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of our children and families back to Normandy Village School for the start of a new academic year.

I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer and had the opportunity to spend some quality time together as a family. We are delighted to see the children returning through our gates, refreshed, excited and ready for another year of learning.

A particularly warm welcome goes to those children and families who are joining our school community for the first time. We are very pleased to have you with us and look forward to getting to know you over the coming weeks. The beginning of a new school year is always an exciting time. For some children, it means moving into a new year group, meeting a new teacher or taking on new responsibilities. For others, it is the start of their very first chapter at school. Whatever their stage, we want every child to feel happy, valued and confident as they begin this new journey.

A Healthy Start

This year, we are excited to begin our Healthy Schools Journey. We want to help our children understand the importance of looking after their physical and mental wellbeing and develop healthy habits that will benefit them throughout their lives.

As part of this journey, we encourage families to provide healthy snacks for breaktime and nutritious, balanced lunches. We will be exploring healthy lifestyles, nutrition, physical activity and wellbeing with the children throughout the year.

Norman will also be going home with families this year with a menu full of all his favourite foods, so if you are lucky enough to take Normandy home for the weekend, you could try one of his favourite meals as a family.

Allergy Guidance

This September also sees the introduction of new statutory requirements around allergy safety in schools, known as Benedict's Law. These requirements strengthen the measures schools must have in place to protect children and adults living with allergies and to ensure that schools take a proactive approach to allergy safety.

In response to Benedict's Law, we have introduced new guidance regarding allergies in school. Families whose children are directly affected by this guidance will be contacted separately with further information. Our updated Allergy Policy is also available online for parents and carers to read. We ask that all families take the time to familiarise themselves with the updated policy and the arrangements we have in place to help keep all of our children safe.

As part of our proactive approach to allergy safety, we are also making a small change to our birthday celebrations. Instead of our traditional birthday biscuit, children celebrating a birthday will receive a special birthday bookmark on Fridays. We appreciate that this may be a little disappointing for some children, but it is one positive step we can take to reduce the risk of allergic reactions and ensure that our celebrations are as inclusive and safe as possible. There will be different bookmarks to collect throughout their time with us.

School Uniform

A reminder that our school uniform expectations remain in place. Trainers should not be worn as part of school uniform, unless there is a specific reason agreed with the school. We appreciate your support in ensuring that children arrive each day in the correct school uniform.

Year 6 Mobile Phones

For our Year 6 pupils only, where a mobile phone is required for children who will be walking home independently, phones may be brought to school but must be switched off before entering the school grounds and brought directly to the school office hatch on arrival. They should not be taken into classrooms, cloakrooms, stored in bags or carried around the school by pupils.

This is an important part of our arrangements for keeping mobile phones safely stored during the school day, and we appreciate parents' support in reinforcing this expectation with their children.

Introducing Our OWLs Curriculum

One of the things I am particularly excited about this year is the introduction of our new OWLs curriculum – Outdoor Learning. This will be an exciting new addition to our curriculum and will provide our children with opportunities to learn, explore, problem-solve and develop their independence through experiences beyond the traditional classroom environment.

Our OWLs curriculum will begin after half term. During this first half term, we will be holding parent and child workshops to explain more about this exciting development and give families the opportunity to find out what the children will be experiencing. We are really looking forward to sharing this with you and seeing the children embrace the opportunities that OWLs will provide.

Coffee Mornings

Furthermore, a reminder that our year-group Coffee Mornings will take place during the first two weeks of term. These are a lovely opportunity to meet members of staff, hear about the year ahead and ask any questions you may have.

All Coffee Mornings will run from **8:45am – 9:15am**:

Monday 7th September – **Year 1**

Tuesday 8th September – **Year 2**

Wednesday 9th September – **Year 3**

Thursday 10th September – **Year 4**

Friday 11th September – **Year 5**

Monday 14th September – **Year 6**

Tuesday 15th September – **Reception**

We would be delighted to see as many parents and carers as possible.

PE Days

A reminder of PE days for the children:

Ash – **Tuesday** and **Thursday** (*children to bring their PE Kit in for the Autumn Term and change in school*)

1P – **Wednesday** and **Friday**

2A – **Monday** and **Friday**

3S – **Monday** and **Tuesday**

4F – **Wednesday** and **Thursday**

5B – **Monday** and **Thursday**

6P – **Wednesday** and **Friday**

This will start from tomorrow (4th) so **Year 1, 2 and 6 will need to come in in their PE kit.**

Fidget Toys

Please can I ask that no fidget toys, cuddly toys etc come into school, if a child requires a Fidget Toy this can be discussed with the class teacher and SENCo and provided by the school. We had a lot of instances of losing these items last year and I know how much they mean to the children, so to minimise this disappointment we ask that they are not brought in from home, thank you very much for your understanding.

Teacher Led Clubs

Information about our clubs offer for this term and booking details will be sent out tomorrow with clubs starting the week of 14th September.

There is lots to look forward to this year, and I am incredibly excited about all that we will achieve together. As always, we greatly value the support of our parents and carers. A strong partnership between home and school makes a real difference to our children's success, wellbeing and happiness. Thank you for your continued support of Normandy Village School. I wish all our children a very happy, healthy, successful and memorable year ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Jonathan Franks

Headteacher