



## HEADTEACHER'S BLOG

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2021-22 academic year, where I wish our new families a warm welcome to the Ivy Bank community.

Ivy Bank was busy during the summer holiday where we cleared up the grounds giving them a good tidy up, and clean; it also included moving the '50 year Golden Garden' to a new site on the field. A special shout out to Mr Fryer, Mr Williams and Mr Radford for all their hard work and to staff who gave their time in the holidays, preparing. We held a taster day for the new reception class on Friday 30th July, where 42 of our cohort were able to join us, which was super special. As shared earlier in the week, I have worked with our chair of governors to finalise the move under Aspire Multi Academy Trust (the AET MAT) where it is great to now be part of 13 schools with common goals and interests.

Speaking to you, I know many families, like my own with one of my daughters, had covid in their households, where we seem to have managed well. We also have some families that have been impacted harder and those who have not been able to return to school this week, where we send you our best wishes to get better and look forward to seeing you soon.

It has been a joy at Ivy Bank these past two days, where we start the new academic year with our usual enthusiasm and cheer, plus a bit more normality. As shared earlier this week, we are working in two phases, EYFS&KS1 and KS2, for playtimes in the morning and we are also slightly staggering lunchtimes to 12-1pm for EYFS&KS1 and 12.30-1.30pm for KS2. Also, assemblies will be a mixture of EYFS&KS1 and KS2 phases and classes over the week, finishing with a whole school Friday Fest achievement assembly. We are starting the day back as we used to, pre-covid, where the gates open for everyone at 8.45am, where EYFS and KS1 go straight to their classrooms and KS2 wait for the bell and line up to go in. Children must be in class by 9am ready to learn. From next week, given the reception children will be on normal times too, the main gates will close at 9am.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness as the playground is busy and some parents are finding it overwhelming due to the large number of people and thank you for your care towards staff, who are wishing to keep a social distance. Please know that you are always able to contact us by phone or email and I am on the playground most days. If I am not available, Mr Herd (deputy head) will be present. Have a lovely weekend - I hear the sun is going to shine!

Best wishes,  
Mrs Gill

## REMINDER OF GATE AND SCHOOL START TIMES

Please note the new times below:

The main school gates will open at 8.45am. The side gate will open at 9.00am for nursery and the Owlery children.

- EYFS and KS1 children will enter their classroom straight away to support distancing.
- KS2 children will need to wait on the playground until the bell rings at 8.55am, then they will line up and go into class.

## SNACK IS BACK

We are delighted to share with you that our kitchen can now offer snack at breaktime to all children. There are bagels, toast and cheese bagels available every day at a cost of 30p per item. This is available to year 1 upwards.

Children will be able to visit the canteen to make their purchases each breaktime. (cash only please).

## DINNER MENU

### W/C 06.09.2021 –Week 2

The new menu can be viewed [here](#) on our school website.

Welcome to Vicky, our new school cook. She comes with fantastic experience and is very keen to give a great service to us all. She joins Jackie and Elise in the kitchen.

## NURSERY NEWS

Everyone has had a great time coming back to Nursery after our summer holidays meeting some old friends as well as making lots of new ones. We have had a few tears coming in but lots of fun and smiles by the end of our sessions. We have been singing the finger songs, looking at some photos of families and sharing and playing with the playdough. We can not wait for the fun to continue next week as we carry on learning about 'Me and My Family/Pets.'

