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3rd September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you had a great summer holiday and enjoyed some special time together as a family. I was extremely lucky as I got to enjoy a full week of sunshine in Wales – something which I am told is a rarity!

It was lovely to welcome all of the children back and hear them enthusiastically sharing what they have been up to over the past few weeks. This morning we had our first assembly together, where we have been talking through some of the exciting changes (which we discussed briefly with the children before the summer) that are taking place this year: the introduction of 'Brain Fit' sessions and our new school Behaviour policy.

As highlighted in a number of emails before the summer holidays, the work around Brain Fit, as well as the introduction of the new behaviour policy, will form an important change to what happens on a day-to-day basis for us as a school. All of these changes are designed to support children in helping them to understand themselves as individuals and develop greater learning and social skills to be used in and beyond the classroom.

Please find attached our new Behaviour Policy which I encourage you to take time to read.

I understand that it is quite a lengthy document, however we have undergone a significant shift in our approach to behaviour in school and want you to be aware of these changes. In the coming weeks, we will be communicating further information with you in more detail around specific aspects of the policy and some of the content which is being taught during Brain Fit sessions. This will be through social media, letters and workshops.

One of the main shifts which children may come home talking about in the coming days is around our school expectations and what happens when these are met or not. These have been streamlined from last year and are as follows:



We will no longer be using a behaviour chart where children move their names up or down; instead, when children meet these expectations, they will:

- Be recognised and praised by adults for the specific behaviour shown
- Be awarded Effort Marks (which are collected in their Home School Planners)
- Be awarded 'Star of the Week'

When these expectations are not met children will:

- Receive support from adults (this support will be referred to as 'coaching prompts' or 'coaching conversations')
- Have a natural consequence as a result of the behaviour shown
- Have additional support or measures put in place until they have developed or demonstrated the appropriate skills needed to behave in a way which is good for them and everyone else

All of the above information is explained in far more detail within the policy. We genuinely do try to be considerate with the amount and timing of information which we send out as a school, so when something does come your way, I hope you will make time to read it. If you do want to go back to something but can't find it, please check our school website as all letters are available there <https://www.freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Newsletters+and+Letters&pid=87>

Please also refer to pages 14 to 21 of your child's school planner for more information about some of the key things which will be learnt during Brain Fit sessions.

I look forward to working with you and your children over the coming year and am grateful for the ongoing support which you show to us as a school.

Kind regards



Ryan O'Hearn