



7 September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new school year! This first issue is sent home as a paper copy as well as being emailed. If you do not receive the email please let us know. If you require a paper copy each time please contact the office.

Welcome Back to School

We would like to welcome back all our children and families and give a particularly warm welcome to all our children in Billy Class. They have already settled in well and have made a great start at Goat Lees. I am sure that there were lots of very proud parents on Tuesday morning as the children put on their uniforms for the first time. Please note that Billy Class will be staying for lunch next week and going home at 1pm.

As usual, the children all looked very smart for the start of term and we hope this continues. Can we remind you that ties are part of the uniform and should be worn unless children are wearing dresses. Please make sure that all items are clearly named as clothing can be muddled up especially when changing for PE and children can easily lose things. May we also thank those of you who have given us items of uniform that are no longer needed. Mrs Shepherd is now rather overwhelmed with clothing in her room and we will be arranging a second hand uniform sale in the near future.

Minibus

I am sure that by now you will all be aware of the devastating incident during the summer break when our school minibus was attacked by arsonists. This took place in the early hours of a Sunday morning and shocked us all as it is hard to imagine how something like this can happen. Such a senseless act serves absolutely no purpose and those who carried it out have no thought to the damage they have caused or the consequences. The minibus was fully maintained and secure but as the owners of the other vehicles that were destroyed know, when a vehicle has been set fire to in the way that ours was, there was little to stop it being completely destroyed although the Fire Brigade did attend and prevented further damage to the school itself. Our thanks must go out to those parents who have offered support to us and who have helped to deal with this awful situation as it really has been upsetting for our whole community. Of course in these situations we are able to make a claim from our insurance cover but as many of you will know, this is not an easy process and there are lots of factors to consider.

The minibus itself was leased through Fleet Services at KCC and we are fortunate that the insurance claim will cover the settlement figure that we have to pay the company that provided the vehicle. However, that means that we are now starting all over again and are in the process of trying to replace our minibus. A further complication is the lack of availability of minibuses for lease as there are no new vehicles available until next year as new models are being released. Following further enquiries, we have now located a pre-used vehicle which is the same as our previous model and we are negotiating the options available to us for its use. We are able to lease the bus for a year although costs are higher than before but we also have the option to purchase if we can raise the funds to do so. This would be a more cost effective option for the school in the longer term. We have been approached regarding donations and we are hoping to receive some in the near future but we do need to raise between £4000 and £5000 to match the funding that the school can provide. I would be very happy to speak to anyone who has any suggestions or information that can support us in this fundraising effort.

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