

13 January 2022

Dear Parents

I had written this letter regarding the changes that have taken in place in school since January, however am now having to start by writing about water. Unfortunately we have a fault in our water system and this morning had no running water in school. We currently still do not have hot running water or heating in the building. Apologies for the disruption, this is obviously not the start that I wanted, however in these circumstances I cannot open the school under Health and Safety guidance. I will of course update you as soon as I can on the situation.

Changes from January

Why are we making changes?

It is my job as Principal to ensure that the school maintains high standards at all times. This is part of our continual drive to improve the school and to ensure that the ethos and culture creates a positive learning environment.

Uniform

I sent out a letter before the holiday outlining the uniform expectations and the consequences if these were not followed. We did uniform checks on all students yesterday and the standard of uniform across the school was excellent. The students looked exceptionally smart today, they are expected to wear blazers as they enter and exit lessons but can ask staff for permission to take them off in lessons if they are too warm. School ties are available to buy online and collect at student reception, we will also be making blazers available on our system as well.

No coats in the building

As you are already aware, coats are no longer allowed in the school building. Obviously they can still wear them to school and if they need to go outside during the school day for any reason. Students only have to remove coats just as they enter any building (they will not be asked to remove them at the main gates for example). As I have said previously, the school is very warm so there are no concerns about students being cold during the day, if anything, students are still requesting to take blazers off in lessons. This is part of our drive to ensure that uniform standards are of a very high standard, I am really pleased to say that the response to this by students has been very positive.

Standards Card

All students have been issued with a 'Standards Card'. This is a card that they will carry around with them at all times. If they are caught not upholding the school standards, the member of staff will sign the card. Four signatures will result in a negative point and therefore an after school detention. Examples of not meeting standards include having a shirt untucked, not having basic equipment or dropping a piece of litter. Not having a standards card on request will result in an automatic after school detention.

Rewards

You will receive a separate letter with more detail regarding rewards but I just wanted to let you know that a new rewards system has also been implemented to ensure that those students who continually work hard and do the right thing are being recognised and rewarded.

Breaks and lunchtimes

From this term, we have moved to one break and lunch time for all year groups rather than the staggered ones that we had before the holiday. The lunchtime will be extended from 30mins to 40 minutes. This means that we will be able to open the astroturf at lunchtime for football and will be able to offer extracurricular activities again during this time. Break time will be at 10.05am – 10.20am and lunchtime will be 12.20pm to 1.00pm. We ran the new system yesterday and it went well overall, there was adequate room for students who wanted to eat in the dining area to sit down, particularly as many had chosen to go down to the astroturf.

If you do have any concerns, please ring the school, however I need to remind you that we will not tolerate being spoken to in an inappropriate or aggressive manner. Due to COVID, we are still limiting any visitors on site, so please do not turn up to school without an appointment or request from the school to do so as you will not be able to be seen.

Thank you for the positive feedback I have had towards these changes so far and the support from parents when addressing any issues with uniform yesterday. The positive impact of these changes has been noticeable already.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ZL House'.

Zoe House, Principal
Lees Brook Community School