**10 September 2021**

**Dear Mums, Dads, and Carers**

We’ve had our first full week and it’s been brilliant! Our children have settled into their new classes superbly and all are thoroughly enjoying mixing fully and having all of the school grounds to play in during play and lunchtime's.

**Dates**

With this newsletter you will find a dates list for the year. We have added as much information as we can and will do our absolute best to keep to them but I know you will understand that changes can happen. The first events I would like to draw your attention to are the year group parent meetings taking place week beginning 20 September. Please do all you can to attend these, there will be a crèche for the infant meetings and juniors can attend their meetings with you.

**After school clubs**

Our programme of free after school clubs will begin week beginning 27 September; experience has told us that Reception children do not really benefit from clubs in their first term with us so we look forward to them joining us in January.

**Pokemon**

A number of teachers and I, as well as Darwin’s Den staff, have had had to spend a fair bit of time this week sorting out Pokemon card issues and so the time has come to say no more! I allowed these in school for play and lunchtime's before the summer as children were restricted in what they could do and the majority of the time they were able to play and trade without too much fuss but this is now not the case.  I would appreciate your support in making sure they do not come to school at all.

**Fidget toys**

Similarly, we have quite a few children bringing so called “fidget toys” in from home. As I have said in the past, contrary to popular opinion these do not help children focus but rather are a huge distraction to them and to those around them. Please support us and all children by making sure your child does not bring such things to school; if we feel the need, we will talk to you about your child’s focus / attention span and arrive at a solution together.

**House Points**

We have changed our House Point “Houses.” We needed to do this as over the years the numbers in some have dwindled and in others grown as siblings have moved though and out of the school. The effect of this has been such that in some classes there were less than 5 in one house and 15 in another. Although they still have colours please note these too will probably be different for your child just because he / she was red last time does not mean he / she still is. Our new Houses are ~ Iguanas (red), Tortoises (blue), Penguins (green) and Finches (yellow) all obviously corresponding to the Voyage of Charles Darwin.

Thank you for all of your support, on behalf of all staff let me tell you how delighted we are to be back and getting on with daily school life; it’s great!

Very best wishes

Adam Croft