



Friday 7th September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year at The Ridge. I hope that you had a good summer and were able to enjoy some quality time with your children. It is lovely to see everyone back for the new year looking rested and excited for a new year ahead.

At the start of this new term we are pleased to welcome some new people to the team and see changes in roles for others. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Burley, our new teacher in Kindergarten, and Mrs Ryder, who will be teaching Year 2. We wish them both happiness and success in their new posts. Mrs Dipple and Mrs Hemus are teaching Year 3 this year and so Mr Morgan and Mrs Tetheridge will be covering teachers' Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time.

The provisional dates that we have set for this year can be found on the school website (www.ridge.dudley.sch.uk) on the 'Calendar' tab. We are happy to be able to publish these early on in the term, but as always, ask you to bear with us should we need to alter any of them as the year progresses.

We have issued our 'Student' Form. Please return this to school by Tuesday 11th September as it vital that we have up to date information in order for us to be able to inform you if your child is unwell or has an accident. Please remember to let us know if any of these details (especially mobile numbers or newly diagnosed medical conditions) change during the school year. We have also issued a number of other permission forms for the use of photographs, apps and our texting service. Some of these are required by the new Data Protection Regulations. (GDPR). The new Privacy Notice is also on the website, setting out what information we collect and how we use it.

We will soon be publishing a newsletter with lots of information we want to share with you at the start of this new school year – we will send you a text to let you know that it has been uploaded to the website. Over the coming months we will be making more use of our website and the School Life App to share letters and information with you: at the same time, we will be reducing the number of paper copies we send out.

Please can I take this opportunity to ask you to avoid sending peanuts or peanut based products into school. This includes the use of peanut butter in packed lunches 'birthday' sweets or chocolates which contain peanuts. A number of our pupils have allergies which can result in an anaphylactic reaction and may be life threatening.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful year ahead. We trust that the children settle quickly into their new classes, please do share any concerns you might have. In most cases the class teacher should be your first point of contact. They might already be aware of the situation and are on hand to be able to talk to your child about any problems. However, all the adults in school are committed to working with parents and carers so, please don't hesitate to speak to Miss Beddoes, Mrs Hadley or myself if you think that we can help.

With best wishes for the new school year.

Mrs D Hudson
Headteacher

