



Newsletter Update – October 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Many thanks to you all for your amazing support during this challenging time for us all. Your support and calm approach has ensured that the children have returned to school settled and feeling secure and has been praised by all staff in school. The children are a credit to you all.

I felt it important to give a few updates as we have so much going on at the moment. As always, please contact me at school on 01207 232445 if you have any queries.

School Lunches

After half term, we will be moving from the interim school lunch menu and offering the children three choices in school for lunches. We will continue with our band system and our processes such as putting our menus onto the school website under your child's class and staff giving your child their choice when they enter school. It will however mean an amendment to the band colours for A, B, C choices which staff will also be discussing with the children. So you can also talk to your child about the changes, from November 3rd, the bands and colours will be as follows:

- Choice A – red band
- Choice B – green band
- Choice C – yellow band

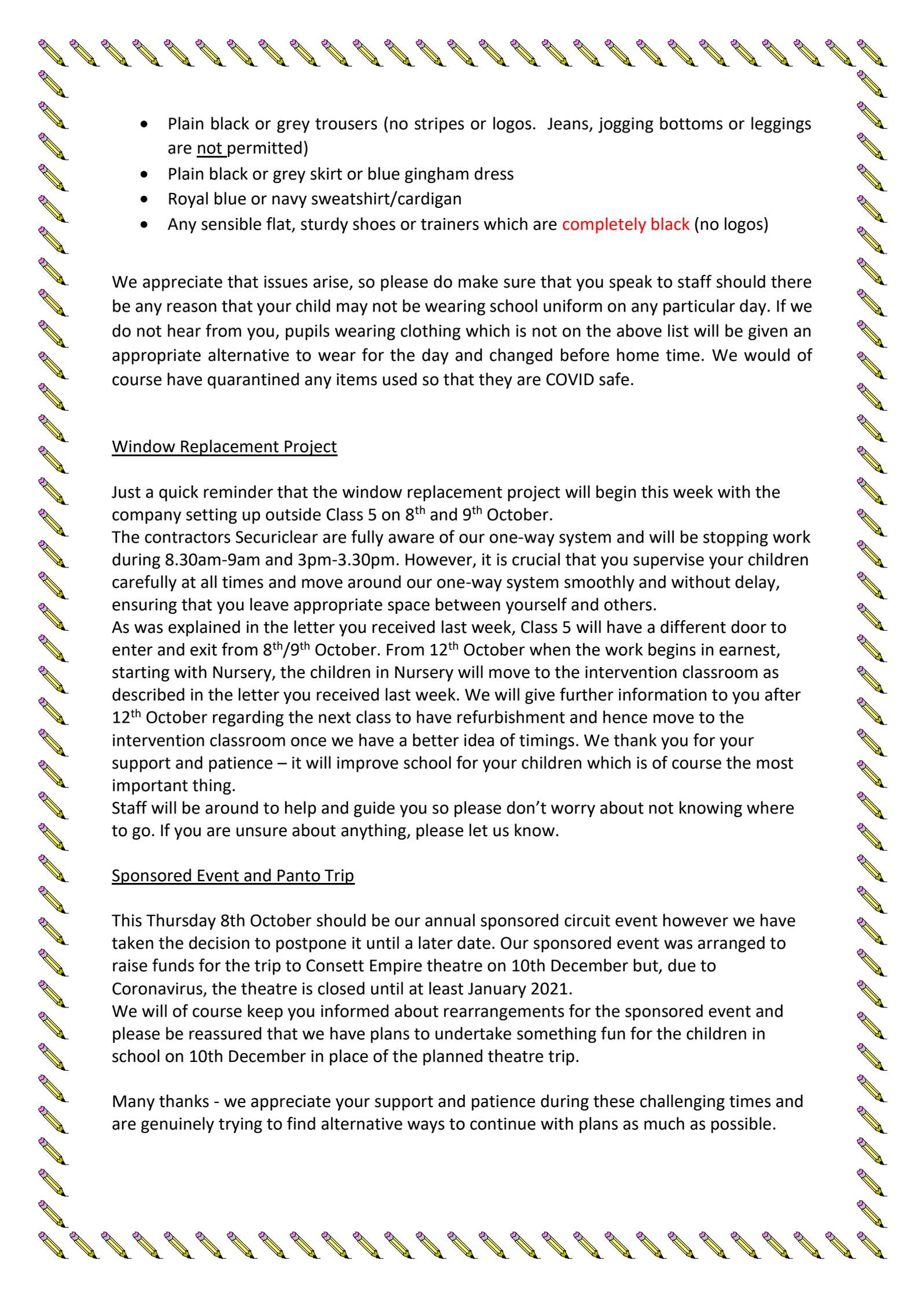
Uniform

A reminder that all South Stanley Infant & Nursery School pupils are required to wear a school uniform at all times. This helps to foster a sense of identity for the children and also makes life easier for parents by removing the pressure of buying expensive fashion clothing.

For health and safety reasons, children should not wear earrings. For children who have had ears pierced and whose earrings need to stay in for six weeks, Parents/ Carers will be asked to sign a form and a note of the date they were pieced will be made by staff.

Our uniform for September 2020 comprises of:

- Blue or white shirt/blouse/polo shirt

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- Plain black or grey trousers (no stripes or logos. Jeans, jogging bottoms or leggings are not permitted)
 - Plain black or grey skirt or blue gingham dress
 - Royal blue or navy sweatshirt/cardigan
 - Any sensible flat, sturdy shoes or trainers which are **completely black** (no logos)

We appreciate that issues arise, so please do make sure that you speak to staff should there be any reason that your child may not be wearing school uniform on any particular day. If we do not hear from you, pupils wearing clothing which is not on the above list will be given an appropriate alternative to wear for the day and changed before home time. We would of course have quarantined any items used so that they are COVID safe.

Window Replacement Project

Just a quick reminder that the window replacement project will begin this week with the company setting up outside Class 5 on 8th and 9th October.

The contractors Securiclear are fully aware of our one-way system and will be stopping work during 8.30am-9am and 3pm-3.30pm. However, it is crucial that you supervise your children carefully at all times and move around our one-way system smoothly and without delay, ensuring that you leave appropriate space between yourself and others.

As was explained in the letter you received last week, Class 5 will have a different door to enter and exit from 8th/9th October. From 12th October when the work begins in earnest, starting with Nursery, the children in Nursery will move to the intervention classroom as described in the letter you received last week. We will give further information to you after 12th October regarding the next class to have refurbishment and hence move to the intervention classroom once we have a better idea of timings. We thank you for your support and patience – it will improve school for your children which is of course the most important thing.

Staff will be around to help and guide you so please don't worry about not knowing where to go. If you are unsure about anything, please let us know.

Sponsored Event and Panto Trip

This Thursday 8th October should be our annual sponsored circuit event however we have taken the decision to postpone it until a later date. Our sponsored event was arranged to raise funds for the trip to Consett Empire theatre on 10th December but, due to Coronavirus, the theatre is closed until at least January 2021.

We will of course keep you informed about rearrangements for the sponsored event and please be reassured that we have plans to undertake something fun for the children in school on 10th December in place of the planned theatre trip.

Many thanks - we appreciate your support and patience during these challenging times and are genuinely trying to find alternative ways to continue with plans as much as possible.



Covid-19 Risk Assessment and Safety

I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you of the many measures in place in school to protect your child and your family. We have a risk assessment which is over 60 pages long which all staff have contributed to and which has been approved by Health and Safety at Durham County Council. It is acknowledged by the government that young children do often find it difficult to social distance and we all know that our very youngest children have needs that mean staff need to interact closely with them at times. We are also all aware that children need to be in school not only so they can learn but also so that they develop socially and that the Government has again made it compulsory for children to attend school from September 2020, so there are other 'control measures' that we have in place that take priority in order to reduce risk.

These control measures include increased cleaning (lots of it!), lots and lots of handwashing and use of hand sanitiser, children remaining in class 'bubbles' and more frequent changes of clothing amongst various other measures. Staff are able to move around classrooms, again being extremely mindful of the need to implement the control measures in place. This is crucial for the smooth running of any school so you may see a different member of staff to your child's class teacher on the door to greet and see out your child, but be reassured that all safety measures are carefully adhered to by all staff in school, with regular reminders and refreshers given. Please remember that your child's class teacher is still available to speak to if you give us prior notice. Should anyone have any concerns, or would like to see the school's risk assessment, please contact me and I will be more than happy to discuss things with you.

Once again, on behalf of the children, staff and myself, many thanks for your support, patience and good humour during the past four weeks.

Kind regards,



Louise Thompson
Head teacher

