Welcome back!
This is the first newsletter we have sent out to parents this term and, although I have seen many of you already in the playground, I want to formally welcome you all back to Regents Park and look forward to another successful year working with the children and families within our fabulous community!

Communication and keeping up to date with school news
In the current climate, we are trying to do our bit to think about the environment and reduce waste as well as being careful about our school budget. We are a very big school and in previous years we have sent a lot of newsletters out to parents which I am conscious means a lot of paper and printing costs. Many parents are now using other means of communication and so we already have our school website and mobile phone app, twitter page and text messaging service. Therefore, we are hoping to reduce the number of printed letters and newsletters we will send out this year in order to reduce paper waste and save money on printing.

Please make sure that you are up to date with school news by checking the school website, mobile phone app and twitter page. It is also vitally important to make sure that you have given us the most up to date mobile phone number that you have so that we can send you text message notices and reminders and so that we can contact you in an emergency.

School closures for INSET days/ Elections
We sent out a letter in the summer term to tell you about diary dates coming up including the INSET days this term when school would be closed to pupils for staff training. The first INSET day is coming up next Monday 23rd September when we will be closed to ALL pupils. We will reopen on Tuesday 24th September at 8.40am. Other INSET days for this year are listed further below including one on Friday 25th October when we break for half term – there is one more outstanding INSET day still to be confirmed for later in the year.

Also, as many of you know, we are a venue that is used as a polling station for local and national elections. We have been told there will be a local police commissioner and local mayor election next year on Thursday May 7th 2020 when school will be closed for all pupils except Year 6. The following day (Friday 8th May 2020) we will also be closed for May Bank Holiday.

There is a possibility that there may also be a General Election at some point during this term when we would also have to close to all pupils. We will let you know as soon as possible if this is the case.

Online school payments using sQuid
A reminder to parents that we are moving away from all cash payments and have introduced a system of online payment not just for school meals but also for school trips and visits. Next week we have support sessions to help parents log in to their sQuid account from Tuesday 24th to Friday 27th September from 8.00am - 8:30am. All parents will need to create an account even if they don’t pay for school meals as all trips will need to be paid for online.

Important reminders for parents:
School uniform – It has been good to see so many children return to school this term looking very smart in new uniform. Some reminders though:

• Please make sure that your child has a school sweatshirt or cardigan with the school badge on it. Some children are wearing green jumpers or sweatshirts that do not have the badge on and
so would not be able to be identified on school trips. School sweatshirts/ cardigans can be bought at cost price from the school office.

- School uniform colours are bottle green (for jumpers/ cardigans/ headscarves, etc), white shirts, and then grey or black trousers, dresses, skirts, socks, tights etc.
- PE Kit – children should have a change of clothing for PE, i.e. a plain white t-shirt, black or grey shorts/ jogging bottoms, white socks and plimsolls.
- Children should be wearing black shoes for school.
- Trainers (even black ones) are not part of school uniform. They are also not part of PE uniform – pupils should have a pair of plimsolls in school. The only time children can wear trainers is if they are playing sport on the AstroTurf and they should change into them when they need them.
- Please no jewellery or sparkly head wear.
- Please make sure that children have appropriate clothing dependent on weather – when it is cold or wet, some children still arrive at school without a warm coat or in inappropriate footwear.
- Please make sure that all items of clothing have been labelled with the child’s name and class. We are already collecting jumpers/ coats, etc. that children have left and that do not have names on!

**Start of the school day** – A reminder that the school day begins at 8.40am and we expect ALL pupils to be in school at this time. We close the doors and gates promptly at 8.55am and any children who arrive after this time are missing the start of lessons and will be marked as late.

Some parents are still only aiming to arrive by 8.55am however and their children are missing out on important start of the day activities.

Parents – please be ready to drop your children off at school at 8.40am every day.

**Absence and trips abroad during term time** – Just a reminder that it is parents’ responsibility to make sure that children are in school every day - we know that children with the best attendance make the most progress in their education at whatever level they are at.

If your child is absent, please contact school as early as possible to let us know. If a child has been absent for a number of days or has previously had poor attendance, we may arrange home visits to check up on them.

It is important to let us know if you and your children are taking a trip abroad for any reason. It is only in exceptional circumstances that we will authorise a trip abroad during term time but we still need to know where they are.

All parents will have had a letter detailing the procedure called Fast Track that we follow to deal with pupils with poor attendance or who have had unauthorised trips abroad. Please make sure you are aware of this as we have had an increase in the number of parents receiving penalty fines in recent years.

**Parking around school** – Parents please be considerate about parking around school. A number of parents have had to be reminded again at the start of this year about not parking on yellow zig zag lines between 8.00am and 4.00pm.

It is also not appropriate to park on pavements as it is dangerous for children and difficult for pedestrians. Please also be considerate of our neighbours and do not park on or in front of their driveways.

If you have no choice but to drive, please park away from school and walk the last few 100 yards.

**School meals and healthy lunchboxes** – We are very proud to be able to continue to offer children at Regents Park a healthy school meal cooked on site and to be able to cater for all dietary requirements.
All children in EYFS and KS1 receive the option of a free school meal; for KS2 children the cost is now £2.35 per day (paid using sQuid) unless the child is eligible for free school meals.

Some pupils opt to bring a packed lunch instead of having school meals. We do expect these packed lunches to meet the same healthy, balanced standards of our own school meals in terms of things such as fat content, sugar, salt, etc.

If you are sending children to school with a packed lunch, please try to make sure it contains a balance of:

- starchy food such as bread, pasta, potatoes, etc.
- fruit and veg such as carrot sticks, cucumber, banana, apple, etc.
- meat, fish or eggs
- dairy food such as cheese in a sandwich or yoghurt
- a drink such as milk or water or no more than 150ml of fruit juice

Please do not pack items such as:

- cold burgers and chips or other fast food items
- crisps
- chocolate and sweets
- fizzy drinks or other drinks with high sugar content

Severe nut allergies – We are letting you know that we have a number of children with nut allergies in school, some who have severe reactions to contact with nuts. One child in school has a nut allergy that puts them at risk even if they don’t directly touch the nuts themselves, i.e. they touch a surface or a hand that has had contact with nuts.

Whilst it is almost impossible to completely prevent any exposure to nuts in daily life, we are keen to minimise the risk of a child having a severe life-threatening reaction so we would ask all parents to consider what you send your child to school with. Please do not put bags of nuts into children’s lunchboxes and keep other nut based foods to a minimum.

We can all work together to remind children to be careful and encourage them to wash their hands after handling any food and in so doing help to reduce the risk for any child with a severe nut allergy. Thank you.

Walking to school challenge from 24th September

Regents Park has been chosen to be part of an exciting nationwide challenge to encourage more children and their families to walk to school. WOW, the year-round walk to school challenge, is delivered by Living streets. This is a UK charity for everyday walking to help as many children as possible experience the benefits that walking to school brings.

The challenge will mean that if children walk, cycle or use a scooter to get to school at least once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge. It is that easy! There are a total of 11 badges to collect.

We will be starting the challenge on Tuesday 24th September 2019. We hope that the children at Regents Park will enjoy joining the thousands of children benefitting from walking to school.

Message from our Parent Support Advisors:

We are organising a number of course and classes for our parents in our Family Learning Suite in school.

ESOL classes begin on Tuesday 24th September from 9.30am to 11.30am with a Literacy course from 12.30pm to 2.30pm.

Dads’ English classes begin on Thursday 26th September from 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

There is enrolment for a course called Caring for Children on Thursday 26th September between 9.00am and 11.00am and classes then start on Wednesday 2nd October from 12.15pm to 2.45pm.
## Stay and Play

Stay and Play will begin on Wednesday 25th September in the Nursery from 8.55am to 10.15am and costs £1.50.

Other classes coming soon include Digital skills classes and Keep Fit classes – look out for more information.

Parents who need help completing Year 7 application forms, please contact Mrs Khan or Mrs Sarwar.

### Important dates for 2019-2020...so far:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd September 2019</td>
<td>School closed for all pupils – Staff training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27th September 2019</td>
<td>Harvest assembly – please help us buy donating tinned and dried foodstuff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th October 2019</td>
<td>Parents Afternoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 25th October 2019</td>
<td>School closed for all pupils – Staff training</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th October – 1st November 2019</td>
<td>Autumn Half Term - School closed for all pupils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20th December 2019</td>
<td>School closes at 1.00pm for start of Christmas holidays</td>
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<td>23rd December – 3rd January 2020</td>
<td>Christmas holiday - School closed for all pupils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6th January 2020</td>
<td>School closed for all pupils – Staff training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th October 2019</td>
<td>Parents Afternoon</td>
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<td>17th February – 21st February 2019</td>
<td>Spring Half Term - School closed for all pupils</td>
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<td>6th April – 17th April 2020</td>
<td>Easter holiday - School closed for all pupils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 7th May 2020</td>
<td>Local Police Commissioner/ Mayor Elections - School closed for all pupils (except Year 6)</td>
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<td>Friday 8th May 2020</td>
<td>May Bank Holiday - School closed for all pupils</td>
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<td>25th May – 29th May 2020</td>
<td>Summer Half Term - School closed for all pupils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15th July 2020</td>
<td>Parents Open Afternoon</td>
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<td>1.00pm – 3.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday July 2020</td>
<td>School closes at 1.00pm for start of Summer holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2nd September 2020</td>
<td>School re-opens at 8.40am</td>
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Please remember to keep up to date with more school news on our school website, school app, twitter and by text message.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A Beale  
Headteacher