News from Cumnor CE School

Love to Learn, Learn to Love

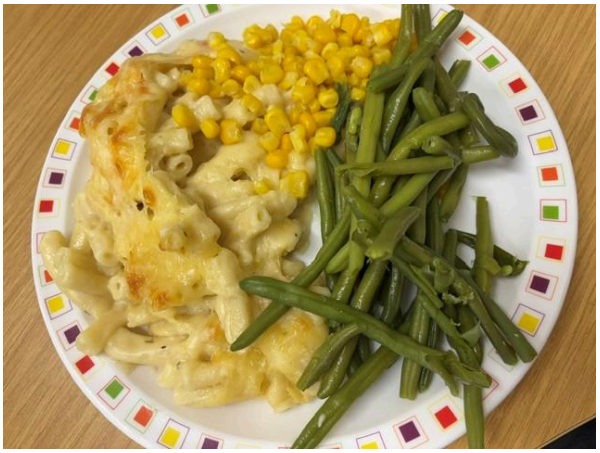
Autumn Term Number 1 ***4th September 2026***

Dear Families,

Welcome back!

Hello and welcome back to school! It has been a real delight to welcome not just our existing Cumnor School family but also to meet our new Acorns, a number of new starters across the school and to have been joined by new members of staff Mr Parrott, Miss Moran, Mrs Cintolesi, Mrs Wan and Miss Lay. It has been a fantastically settled start and fills us with excitement for the year ahead.

The children were delighted by the salad bar which greeted them in the lunch hall. This represents just some of the work being done to ensure that the children enjoy their school meals. I had the macaroni on Thursday and it was excellent!



Communication

Over the summer, we have been working on a Communication Policy which we share soon, once it has been agreed by Governors. As has been the case in recent years, we are aiming to get an overview of trips and visits for the year to you shortly. You will also have received (or will shortly receive) a letter for your child's class.

Phones

Ahead of reviewing our mobile phone policy formally, updated guidance has been issued by the Department for Education about schools being phone-free environments.

In light of this, please be aware of the following:

- Written permission must be obtained to bring a phone to school. Please email the school office regarding this. This should only apply to children in Year 5 or 6 who are walking to school or home without an adult. There may also be occasions where a medical condition requires the use of technology. This is a separate consideration which we will support families with.

- Phones must be brought to the office switched off and in an opaque holder, e.g. a pencil case (we are not particular about what it looks like) and collected after the children have been dismissed at 3.10pm.
- Phones should not be out on site. Children should therefore switch off phones and put them in their holder prior to entering the school site at the end of the drive.
- In order to ensure good safeguarding practice, we politely request that families also keep their phones out of sight whilst on school grounds. There is an obvious exception when school events take place (e.g. performances, sports day). From time to time, we understand that emergency calls need to be taken. We appreciate this and politely request that you make this as discreet as possible.
- The same message has been given to staff on the understanding that sometimes particular software requires them to use multi-factor authentication which relies on the use of their phones.

Walking to School and Home

Children up to and including Year 4 are expected to be brought to school and collected from school by a parent/ guardian or a named adult. (The office should be made aware of named adults).

For children in year 5 and 6 please complete this form so we are clear as to your preferences:

- Child will be dismissed to a named adult.
  or
- Child will be dismissed to leave the school site alone.

Uniform

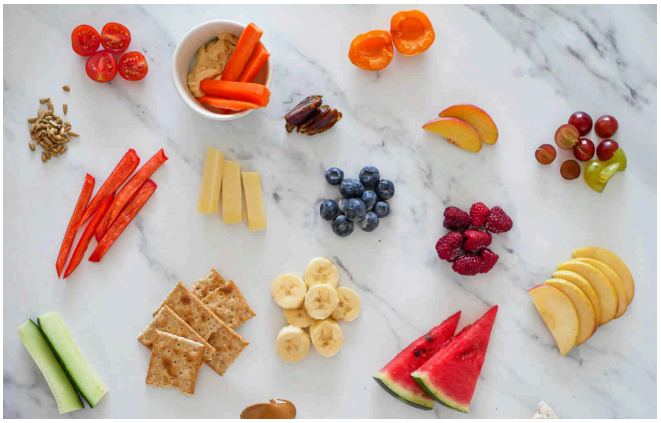
A reminder about expectations around uniform can be found here. A polite reminder that shoes can be standard school shoes, or dark coloured trainers. Fashion shoes are not permitted. Shoes such as converse would be considered fashion shoes and are therefore not suitable as school uniform. Children with pierced ears may wear simple stud earrings. This means that hooped earrings are not permitted for safety reasons.

Healthy Snacks

As a reminder from a newsletter sent late last year, Early Years and Key Stage One children are provided with a snack (fruit or vegetables) free of charge. If they don't like what is on offer (or might not like it), they are able to bring in a piece of fruit or vegetable as an alternative. Fruit winders, snack bars, etc. will not be allowed as they are not healthy snacks.

If you are intending to send in healthy snacks for breaktime with your Key Stage Two child, please limit them to the list below:

- Vegetables/ vegetable sticks – such as celery, cucumber, peppers or carrot
- A piece of cheese (cheddar cheese or Babybel)
- A piece of fresh or dried fruit – pineapple, mango, kiwi, plain raisins, apricots, blueberries, banana slices
- Bread sticks, plain pretzels, banana bread, malt loaf, oat/rice cakes, pitta breads
- Yoghurt



We are aiming for a common-sense approach, with the key being to keep it healthy and no chocolate, sweets or crisps during breaktime.

Diary dates:

Monday 14th September	2.30pm	Phonics and Maths information for Reception families
16th/17th and 22nd-24th September	School Day	Y5 Cycling
Thursday 17th Sept	School Day	Flu vaccinations
Thursday 24th September	School Day	School photos
Friday 25th September	9am	Harvest Service at St Michael's (families welcome)
Thursday 8th October	School Day	Year 5 Trip to The Living Rainforest
Monday 19th October	School Day	Year 3 Trip to Hill End
Tuesday 20th October	School Day	Year 6 Trip to Oxford City Centre
Thursday 22nd October	5pm	Reception Books at Bedtime
Friday 23rd October	9am	Year 2 Class Assembly (families welcome to the school hall)
Friday 23rd October	3.10pm	Term Ends
Friday 23rd October	Evening	PTA Pumpkin Night

Yours sincerely,

Steven Badger

Headteacher