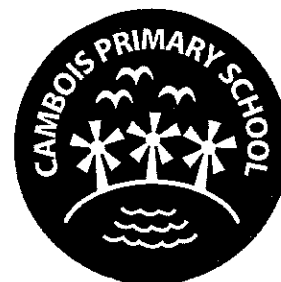


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Dear Parents/Carers,

As a school we hope you know we think our links with home and school are vital. As teachers and staff parents can expect that we work to ensure your child is happy, safe and makes maximum progress at school. To ensure this happens we have expectations from parents and carers to also help ensure that your child reaches their potential.

Punctuality and attendance – It is very important that your children attend school regularly and that while we understand children can be ill and there may be other reasons for absence, their attendance should still be a priority.

It is also very important that children come to school on time. We cover a lot of important skills in the first session across the school and our younger children do their phonics. If they regularly miss part of this first lesson then they are being put at a huge disadvantage.

We monitor attendance and punctuality closely and work with the local Education Welfare Officer when certain thresholds are reached.

Collecting Children on Time – It is very important that children are collected from school at 3.00pm each day. I understand that on occasion it is unavoidable to be late and if this is the case then please let the school know. Any children who are persistently collected late may meet the threshold where we are obliged to refer to Children's Services.

Good Manners and Respect – We are spending more and more time teaching the children the importance of good manners and respect. While I understand that school plays an important role in reinforcing these, I ask parents to also teach, model and reinforce the need for good manners and the importance of respecting all members of our community.

Reading at Home – I cannot stress the importance of reading at home enough. It is so important for your child's education and evidence shows that children are much less likely to achieve well if they do not read at home. Please, please, please read to your children, get your children to read to you, encourage independent reading (older and more fluent readers), discuss stories (characters, settings plots etc) and just enjoy stories and books with your children. We expect children to read AT LEAST

twice per week and we will monitor this carefully, writing individually to parents if we do not get evidence of home reading.

Uniform and Equipment – Children need to come to school in the correct uniform. We have done our very best to ensure parents can buy cheaper uniform from supermarkets and we can help provide uniform if you are struggling financially. PE kit is needed on the relevant days and again we can support.

Attendance at Meetings and Parent's Evenings – It is an expectation that parents attend any pre-arranged meetings and come to appointments set for parent's evenings.

Basic Skills – Staff in school are having to work with children on many basic skills that we know can be taught at home. We are more than happy to help with this and reinforce these skills but we do expect parents to help with this in the first place. These include, but are not limited to, tying shoe laces, fastening coats, getting changed (important for PE lessons) and eating correctly using knives and forks.

Hygiene Expectations – It is important that your child knows how to use the toilet correctly, understands the importance of basic hygiene such as hand washing and knows how to do this effectively. We saw before Christmas how quickly bugs can spread through school and this basic level of knowledge helps to tackle this.

Support with Decisions Around Behaviour and Sanctions – School has very well established and effective behaviour systems and procedures. They have come about through years of development and experience and they work. I have no issues with parents asking for clarification around incidents and why a sanction may have been imposed but we will follow our procedures fairly and consistently. Children need to know that there can be consequences to their actions and parents set a negative example if they are seen to be arguing with our decisions or criticising them to the children. We would not give sanctions if we did not have evidence that an incident took place so I ask respectfully that you believe us and support us in our decisions.

Reading Communications From School – The staff spend a lot of time keeping parents informed about what is happening in school and upcoming events. This communication comes in many different forms including newsletters and letters (also available on the school website), Facebook, Twitter, and text. It is sometimes clear however that this communication is not always read. We do expect parents to read these communications so that they are aware of what is happening in school and know of any future events etc.

Social media postings – I remind parents to consider what they are posting (even to private groups) as they are not in control of who may eventually see the post.

Care For Our School Site – We expect parents to help us by keeping our school site litter free. We have got bins in the yard but, on several occasions, parents have been witnessed dropping litter on the yard. Also many parents are smoking at the school gate when the whole school site is a non-smoking site.

In return you can expect staff members who:

- Are dedicated to providing your children with a safe, friendly, caring and supportive learning environment,
- Respect children at all times and listen to their concerns or worries at appropriate times.

- Challenge any form of discrimination including by gender, race, religion, disability, age or sexual orientation,
- Set high expectations in regards to work and behaviour,
- Develop and teach a curriculum that has been carefully considered and is appropriate to our local area and our children's needs,
- Challenge the children and are aware of, and cater for, differing levels of ability,
- Set work and provide feedback that is relevant and appropriate,
- Understand the importance of praise and reward and use it effectively while also using appropriate sanctions for unacceptable behaviour.
- Monitor the children's progress carefully, using this to adapt teaching.
- Report on student behaviour, attainment and progress regularly through parents' evening and end of year reports.
- Show consistency and fairness in applying our behaviour procedures.

Regards

Marianne Allan

Head teacher



