

4th January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you all had a really great Christmas and that 'your little helpers' around the house made sure that they were *only* helpful at such a busy time!

As we start a new term, I would like to draw your attention to just a few 'day-to-day' points. Please make sure that your child comes to school not only in their school sweatshirt or fleece (named, of course!) but also a coat. If your child has 'lost' their coat, please do ask at the office to look through our Lost Property box in case your child's is in there. We do want the children to go outside at playtime and they will need to wrap up warm. Whatever the weather, at this time of year we would greatly appreciate if on wet (or snowy!!) days, your child could come to school in boots/Wellingtons - but remember to **bring their 'shiny black shoes' with them for inside school**. During the Autumn Term, trainer-style shoes, often with white or coloured bands around the edge, were 'creeping into school'. These **do not follow our school uniform policy** and we would ask that you support your child to wear **black school shoes as set out in our prospectus**. Please do ask to see me if you are having problems with organising this - we are here to help wherever we can.

Could you also please check your child's P.E. day with them - or their class teacher - so that they have the proper kit (white T-shirt, dark/ black shorts and tracksuit bottoms for outdoor P.E. days). It does waste a lot of valuable lesson time if teachers need to sort kit for children who have not brought one. *P.E. is a lesson which children must take part in by law unless YOU write a note to explain the reason why they are unable to take part that day.*

You never know as we enter January whether we can expect **SNOW**. Please make sure **your mobiles are charged and kept on for texts** and listen to **96.4 The Eagle** just in case a decision has been made to close the school if we have a heavy downfall. Updates will be posted on our website at www.towerhill.hants.sch.uk It is vital that you do notify the office team **whenever you change your mobile number** so that you are kept up-to-date with what's happening and is, of course, most critical in the event of ANY emergency.

If your child has **ANY** medication, including any type of inhaler for asthma, please come to the school office to complete an **information and permission for administration form**. Even if you know you have completed a form in the past, please do confirm that the information that **you think we hold is the most UP TO DATE**.

After-school clubs will re-start week beginning 15th January remaining as they were for the Autumn Term.

- **BREAKFAST CLUB** has re-started from TODAY still at £1.60 per session in the ATC!!
- **Before-School Taiko Drumming, Judo and Street Dance WILL RE-START** from NEXT WEEK at 8am on Tuesday, Thursday & Friday mornings respectively.
- Our outside sports provider *Premier Sport* will also be starting **after-school football for children in Years 1 & 2 on Wednesdays and continuing after-school gymnastics on Thursdays for KSII children from next week** - watch out for the separate letter this week.

Please do keep your eyes peeled as there will be several letters and information sheets coming out to you in the coming days - watch out in case they are lurking at the bottom of a bag!!

As those Christmas bills start tumbling in, do check with the office if you are in receipt of **ANY benefits** as it/they may be the type which entitle you to **Free School Meals**. Don't miss an opportunity...you don't often get given things, so seize the chance! And if you have a child in Early Years or Key Stage I, so already get Free School Meals as part of the Government's programme, please do still check about the benefits that you receive as we don't get Pupil Premium funding for your child unless you let us know about those benefits. This funding is what helps us have so many fabulous resources for your children - like our wonderful Learning Support Team!

By the end of this week, you will be receiving your *Curriculum Booklet* informing you of what your child is learning at school this term. Any support that you can give your child for the themes and topics of the term would be greatly appreciated - and as always, **regularly hearing your child read, going through their spellings, and checking their times tables** with them all helps incredibly in their progress.

PLEASE also remember our neighbours at both sides of the school entrances. It can be a nightmare living next to a school entrance, especially at dropping off and collection times. **We would ask you to be as considerate as possible to the needs of those who live near to the school.** Also, **the residents' bays in the flats off Hunter Road** are exactly that - allocated to the residents of the flats. We receive frequent complaints asking for us to remind parents not to park in these bays. Do help us to work as harmoniously as possible with the local residents - many of whom are you!

We thank you all for remembering that the school is a **No Smoking Site** - which includes electronic cigarettes. Please think about the children - and your fellow parents - and hang on that extra moment to smoke further away from the site entrances **rather than just outside the gates.**

I am staggered that I write to you as I start my 11th year at Tower Hill! With another set of fantastic results in the 2017 Summer SATs placing Tower Hill at the **Top of the Performance Table for Farnborough schools**, I can assure you that my dedication, commitment and passion is as strong today as it when I took over and I promise you that I, and the fantastic team at Tower Hill, will endeavour to continue to put, and keep, in place the very best provision possible to help your children achieve their very best for the future. Together, you and we, are the strongest team and I thank you all for your tremendous support during those challenging but exciting years, and for driving the message home with your children: education is a privilege...it opens doors and will help them choose the future **THEY** want. I say to the children at least once a year '*Aim for the Moon and you never know you might reach the stars.*' Thank you for helping us to promote and achieve this vision with your children.

I wish you and your families a very happy, healthy, peaceful and successful 2018. Please remember, if you have any concerns, do contact us straightaway so that we can discuss 'the way forward' - we all want only the best for the children. Any decision made is with them at the central core.

With my very best wishes,

Mrs. Linda Tansley
Headteacher