



Tannery Drift First School

ROYSTON • HERTFORDSHIRE

3rd September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to the start of a new school year and a big welcome to families joining the Tannery Drift community. The staff team have been busy in school preparing for the term ahead, and we are excited to see you and your children this week.

This communication contains some reminders and start of term information.

A quick tick list to help you prepare for your child's first day of term:

- Water bottle
- Plimsolls (these will stay in school)
- School bag or book bag
- Snack (children in years 3 & 4 should bring their own healthy snack each day – no nut containing products please)
- A sunhat / sun cream (if the weather forecast looks promising!)
- Everything named – please ensure all of your child's belongings are named.

School Meals

If your child will be having school dinners, please ensure that you have ordered their meals using [School Grid](#). We ask that you order ahead for the whole half-term. If you need to pay for your child's meals, payments for meals will also be processed through SchoolGrid. In addition to card payments, they also offer a pay by direct debit option. If you choose direct debit they will send you a statement each month detailing meals your child has eaten and the amount of your next direct debit payment.

We are unable to provide meals if you have not ordered in advance and will ask you to bring in a packed-lunch.

For children bringing a packed lunch, please remember that we are a nut-free school, this means that lunches must not contain nuts or nut containing products (e.g. Nutella, granola bars, pesto etc.).

Drop off and collection

Children will be dropped off and collected from their classroom doors. Years Reception to 4 classroom doors will open at 8.40am and close at 8.45am.

For Reception children, please refer to your child's settling in letter for days and times for the first week.

The school day will end at 3.15pm for Reception to Year 4. You are encouraged to collect younger children first if you have more than one child at school.

For children in Nursery, please refer to your child's hours letter for details of their individual hours and attendance patterns.

Children are expected to arrive on time to school every day. However, if due to **exceptional circumstances**, you arrive outside of the drop off times, please make your way to the office to sign your child in. A member of staff will see them to class and your child will be marked as late on the register.

When arriving to collect children at the end of the school day, please do not enter the school site before 3.05pm. There is very limited parking available on site, so we encourage families to walk or park off site. This is to ensure that those who need to park nearer the school are able to.

Vehicles may be moving around the site during drop off and pick up times. Please use the pedestrian gates and stick to paths when moving around the school site. Please avoid walking in the road, parking areas, or through the vehicle gates.

Before 8.15am and after 3.30pm, parents dropping off and collecting from Breakfast and After School Club may use the drop off zone to park. This is to the right as you enter the school. Please do not park in the staff parking areas (to the left, and straight ahead).

We actively encourage children to cycle or scoot to school. When doing so, please ensure that they wear a helmet and walk with their bike or scooter once they are within the school grounds. There are scooter-pods available for children to 'park' their bikes and scooters, and a bike shed by the office. These items are left at your own risk and we highly recommend ensuring that they are labelled or named in some way.

Members of the staff team will be supporting everyone to find their way to classrooms this week.

Attendance

The Department for Education are increasingly requiring schools to monitor attendance closely. As of this year, persistent unauthorised absences can be flagged as a child protection issue. Holiday days taken within term time will always be unauthorised and may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued for non-attendance. The attendance target for this academic year is 97.5%.

PE kit

Children in Years R to 4 will begin their formal PE sessions from w/c 9th September. Please could children come to school in PE kits on the following days.

Reception - Friday

Year 1 - Thursday

Year 2 - Monday and Wednesday

Year 3 - Tuesday and Thursday

Year 4 - Tuesday and Wednesday

Nursery children do not need PE kit.

Regular medication

If your child has an Epi-pen, inhaler or similar medication in school please ensure that you have provided us with in date medication. Please bring these items, and any other medication, to the school office.

If this term will be the first time when your child will be needing to have their regular medication in school, please ensure that you have completed and returned a medication request form. These can be found on the school website ([Home/Parents/Parent Organisation/School Forms](#)). Please be aware that children with who require an inhaler in school will also need a completed 'Asthma Form', also available on the [school website](#).

Nursery and Reception

Our Early Years team are excited to meet the children as they begin their staggered start sessions this week. These sessions provide an excellent opportunity for the children to settle into the setting and get to know each other and the staff. A reminder that all Reception children will attend their usual hours from Wednesday 11th September and Nursery children will begin theirs on Thursday 12th September. The children will begin any booked wraparound care sessions from these dates.

Wraparound Care

All sessions have been booked into Arbor for this half term. Please check your booking and contact the office if you have any questions.

If you are hoping to arrange before or after school care, please note that some After School Club sessions are fully booked and others have limited availability. Please contact the school office to discuss what sessions are available.

We are delighted to say that all **wraparound care for Years 1-4 will now take place in our new building** at the top of the school field. Please drop-off and pick-up from the decking area at the front of the new building. As previously, children will need to be signed in and out.

In Years 1-4 After School Club, in order to maximise play opportunities and create a family-feel to the mealtime, dinner will be served in 2 sittings. Children being collected by 5pm will have the first sitting and those collected by 6pm will join the second sitting.

Clubs

We are aware that many families are keen to find out about clubs for the Autumn term. We hope to share details of all clubs and activities in the next week.

We are looking forward to seeing you all this week and beginning the new school year.

Kind Regards,

Anna Greetham

Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs Anna Greetham

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