



Headteacher
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Sandhurst School

the opportunity to succeed

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12th June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer(s)

Re: School Updates and Information

Welcome back to the start of our new half term. I am writing to share some updates and information for the final few weeks of the school year.

Lost Property

We have a number of items of lost property ranging from items of uniform to water bottles, jewellery and keys, spectacles and mobile phones. At the end of last half term we shared photographs of some of the items and for any jewellery and other valuables students should ask about these at reception.

Vapes

In recent weeks there has been a significant amount of national news regarding the rapid increase in the sale of single use vapes being bought or given to school age teenagers.

In the last week children's doctors have called for a complete ban on disposable vapes because they damage young people's lungs and they are bad for the environment.

There is also recent research that has found that these single use vapes contain high levels of lead, nickel and chromium. These are marketed as 'fruity' with flavours such as blueberry and pomegranate. This suggest that they are harmless – they are not.

It is currently illegal to sell vapes and nicotine products to under 18s but a loophole – hopefully about to be closed – allows these to be given as free samples. Students in this school are no different than those nationally and are illegally being sold vapes or given vapes. We will contact you if your child is found to have a vape in school.

I have included a link should you require more information on the national research:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/c779djgpgv8t>

Toilets

In the past year, we have seen an increasing number of instances where students are asking to come out of lessons to go to the toilet. In some cases, students are requesting this multiple times a day. In a few cases, students appear to be arranging to meet friends when they should be in class and some will be asking so they can check their mobile phone.

We do not want to refuse students who request to use the toilet and certainly do not want to engage students in a difficult and potentially embarrassing conversation in class. Staff will always use discretion to support students appropriately to meet their needs throughout the day.



We do encourage students to use the toilet at break or lunch when there is supervision in place to ensure fresh supplies of soap and toilet roll. Free sanitary products are replenished every morning by our team of volunteers.

We have, because we had noticed a sharp increase in requests, been monitoring this on ClassCharts and have decided for this term to share this information with you. There is no positive or negative attached to this for students and no action is required by you.

I know in other schools where there has been a similar rise, students who ask to go to the toilet in lessons are escorted. We do not want to take this action and hope that by sharing information with you we will reset to normal patterns in our school.

This will allow us to work with you should there be any concerns. Students will continue to be given permission to use the toilets in lessons and the ClassCharts notifications will only apply to lessons not between lessons, break or lunchtimes.

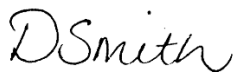
We believe we have been informed regarding any relevant medical conditions but please do let us know if this is not the case.

Gate to Car Park

Please be reminded to take care when driving on the road outside school and when on school site, in particular we have had concerns raised regarding driving into and out of the drop off car park. There is a crossing point across the front of the gate and drivers must approach this with care and ensure they have the ability to stop for pedestrians it is a sharp turn in and always very busy.

Thank you in anticipation for your support this coming half term.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Debbie Smith
Headteacher

