



Friars Primary Foundation School
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6th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the start of the new year here at Friars. We hope you all had a safe and enjoyable holiday.

A reminder that this year we would like all our children to arrive on time from 8.45-9.00am and if they arrive after that they will be recorded as late. To help us with attendance, we have introduced the Studybugs app and would like all parents to sign up for this on their phones: <https://studybugs.com/about/parents> It is a very simple way to report attendance and it gives health advice as well.

A few key dates for your diary:

Wednesday 13th September 3.30-4.15pm Meet The Teacher. An information event where parents can visit their children's new classes and talk to their new teachers. Children are welcome.

Monday 18th September 5-6pm Secondary Transfer Meeting for Year 6 parents.

Finally, you will have seen the recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete mostly used in flat roofing and sometimes in walls and floors which was actively used to construct buildings between the 1950s and the 1990s. Because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability and safety. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to all education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach, and as a result some schools with affected buildings will have to vacate those spaces.

The DfE has been carrying out surveys in schools since 2018, and our most recent was in 2022. We do not have any confirmed RAAC in the buildings however, to be 100% confident that this is the case, we will be carrying out additional building surveys to check if RAAC has been used in any used in the construction of any part of our school building. If it is identified, we will put contingency plans in place immediately and let you know. I would like to reassure you that the safety of our children and staff remain our top priority.

Please read our newsletter each Friday to keep up to date with dates for your diary and the latest news from Friars. They often contain information about local activities as well as class pages from two classes each week.

We look forward to a happy, productive year at Friars with children enjoying their learning and making lots of progress in all subjects.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Wratten

Headteacher

Achieving excellence in a happy, nurturing and safe environment
Compassion, Creativity, Endeavour, Resilience, Respect, Responsibility