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5th August 2019

Dear Parents/ Carers,

**School Uniform – PE Kit**

We have received a number of emails in the last week regarding the launch of our PE days at school and the introduction of the new PE kit.

As many of you were unable to attend the parent forum where this was discussed very positively, we feel that it is important that you know the rationale behind this decision.

We are looking to deliver high quality sporting opportunities for all our children and have already invested heavily in our environment to help to achieve this. The PE day will have many advantages for the children.

Children will arrive on their given day in their kit, there will be no need for them to get changed in the classrooms which avoids loss of kit, sometimes embarrassment and more importantly time slippage in respect of their learning. They will be dressed to start their lesson immediately and will be dressed appropriately. Children representing our school in competitions will be a team, ready to participate against other schools.

As a school we are extremely proud of our behaviour and the change to shirts, ties and jumpers, some time ago, served to enhance this, indeed our uniform now forms part of our Behaviour Policy. Our children are proud of their uniform and the change to the PE kit is the next phase. We are retaining our T shirt and shorts but children can not attend school wearing this, particularly in the winter and a tracksuit is therefore required.

Although the tracksuits do appear expensive compared to our other uniform items, we have chosen a mid-range but high quality item. This should mean that you do not need to purchase regular uniform for 5 days and there will be no requirement for PE bags or additional plimsolls as the children may wear their own trainers. Loss of kit should also be avoided.

We do hope that this will serve to explain the reasoning behind this decision in more detail.

We are always a reflective school and having read through your emails we do appreciate some of your concerns. Although this change has been a number of months coming, the delay with the uniform suppliers has resulted in it being very last minute for parents.

We have therefore decided to phase the official school tracksuit in and this will now become compulsory from September 2020.

During this period of transition, children may attend on their PE day in an unbranded, dark blue or black tracksuit.

Finally, with regard to the clip book bags these will remain as a compulsory item from September. Children are attending school with huge ruck sacks which are simply not needed and can not be stored. We provide pens, pencils, etc. and so there should be ample space for reading materials, homework and a drink in the new bag.

We hope that this has helped to clarify the situation and will be of assistance to you as parents.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S McGrath