

Dear parents and carers,

We are ready to welcome you back to school after the summer holidays – we had some fabulous weather and so little rain - I hope you all managed to enjoy the break.

As you will all no doubt know, this is a period of a new start for Tower View with the retirement of Mr Ridout. I feel very privileged to be the school's new Headteacher and I look forward to meeting you all in the coming days/ weeks. If you haven't met/ seen me yet – I look a little like the picture on the right.



Other staffing changes allow us to welcome Mr Darvill teaching in Year 5 and Miss Williams who joins us as a Teaching Assistant in Year 3. From this school year, Mrs Foster will now be known as Miss Harvey.

Parent Survey:

In order to help me gain a good understanding of your views of the school as parents, I have put together a short survey to find out your views as quickly as I can about the school. The survey is [here](#).

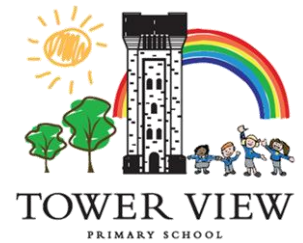
In the survey there is a specific section on school dinners as we are working with Chartwells, who provide our meals, to look to improve the meals and would like your views on these.

As the survey says, if you have never applied to see if you may be entitled to free school dinner – please do [here](#) – all you need are your details and your national insurance number (both parents should apply). If you need some support to do this – (eg if you are struggling with access to the internet) please do ask for help in the school office! For every child entitled to Free School Meals (excluding the free meals all KS1 children receive) school receives additional funding to support their education so it is worth applying for even if you have children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 who currently get their meals free. No one except teaching and office staff are aware in school who receives free school meals and it is never disclosed publically.

Please remember, school dinners are now £2.57

Contacting School:

Sadly some essential work over the holidays has not gone to plan. Due to this we do not have a fully working phone system. We expect to have working phones by very soon – but on a temporary number.



In the meantime, we have a temporary mobile number – this is **07543 588160**

We will keep you updated on this.

Start of the school day:

A reminder about the new school day timings:

Monday to Thursday 8:40am -3:30pm

Friday 8:40am -2:00pm

Childcare available to 3:30pm

Gates will open at 8:40, the register will be taken at 8:45 and the gates will be closed at 8:55

As previously communicated, these timing will be reviewed at Christmas.

The gates to school will be open from 8:40. Please, either drop your child at the gates to walk into school alone or they can be walked into school to the place where they enter the school building – this is a change from last year. Any child/ parent can enter the school via any gate.

Staff will be available on the gates to welcome children (and parents) into school – and to ensure no children leave the premises!

Children in KS2 can come into the building via either the door across the playground or via the main stairs off the playground (towards the toilets and the cloakroom). On day 1, children should go straight to their classes and their teachers will then take them to their cloakroom area and show them where their space will be.

Staff will be around and available to help any lost children and parents!

Nuts:

We have children at school that have severe nut allergies. It is essential that any packed lunches that come in to school are **completely nut free**

This includes – packs of nuts, peanut butter/ Nutella sandwiches, fruit/ cereal bars that contain nuts, sesame seed rolls, pesto and cakes made with nuts. Thank you for your understanding on this.



Key dates:

Within the next few weeks, I hope to be able to issue everyone with as many of the key dates as possible for the school year, including parents' evenings, sports days, performances, class assemblies etc so you know when you may be able to into school to join with your child. We will aim to keep to these dates as much as we can without change.

Term dates:

Wednesday 7th September to Thursday 20th October

Monday 31st October to Friday 16th December

Wednesday 4th January to Friday 17th February

Monday 27th February to Friday 31st March (Monday 1st May Bank Holiday)

Monday 17th April to Friday 26th May

Monday 5th June to Tuesday 25th July

INSET days: Monday 5th September, Tuesday 6th September, Tuesday 3rd January (plus two more to be set – again the dates will be communicated to you within the next 2 weeks.)

I look forward to getting to know you all.

Best wishes

Graham Lobb