



Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

20th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Information for September 2023

We hope your children have enjoyed a wonderful end to the term and their primary school years. It can be an emotional time, but it is important to mark these milestones and to look ahead to the future with positivity. We just wanted to write to you with a reminder of some of the details for the start of term and let you know how much we are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students to Biddenham in September.

The first day back

The first day back for our new Year 7 will be **Wednesday 6th September**. Students should arrive and go straight to the **main hall for 7.45am**. Pick up time will be **2.30pm**. They will have the whole day in school to familiarise themselves before the rest of the school return on Thursday. Please see the end of the letter for details about tutor group bases and this [link](#) for timings of the school day.

Travel to school

We promote healthy lifestyles and encourage students to walk or cycle to school. Please remind students to cycle carefully, wear reflective clothing and a cycle helmet. For safety tips follow this [link](#). If you bring a child to school by car please drive carefully and use the drop off/pick up points marked on the drive.

Attendance

Attendance at school is compulsory. There is strong evidence that tells us students who attend school regularly achieve better. Your support in ensuring students attend school is vital.

Cashless system (ParentPay)

All of our food outlets will be open fully in the new term and we will be continuing with our cashless system for food and all other school purchases including trips and visits. You will have already received information about our new cashless system for payments. If you have not already set up an account or will be new to the school in September you will receive your unique ParentPay Account activation letters shortly. If you would like to know more about this service please click on the Parentpay tab on our website <https://www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk/>

If you have any queries please contact us on parentpay@mybiddenham.com

Uniform

All students are expected to wear full school uniform as shown on this [link](#). [Uniform](#) can be purchased online www.swischoolwear.co.uk. If you require preloved uniform items please contact enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk and we will be happy to help. Our basic school uniform items of plain black full length trousers, plain black skirt, plain white shirt/blouse, black or navy blue shalwar kamiz/jalbaab can be purchased relatively cheaply from any high street or supermarket clothes retailer.

If students have [Dance on their timetable](#), then on those days they should attend school in PE kit.

Biddenham Turn, Biddenham, Bedford, MK40 4AZ

Tel: 01234 342521

Fax: 01234 334530

Email: enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Website: biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Equipment

In order to prepare for the new term, the following is a list of suggested equipment:

It is very important that you have the following equipment with you while at school.

PENS and Pencil (blue or black and green biro)	PENCIL CASE	RULER	RUBBER
			
SHARPENER	COLOUR PENS/PENCILS	SCISSORS	GLUE STICK
			
PROTRACTOR SET	SCHOOL BAG	COMPASS	SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR
			
HEADPHONES (for Chromebook)	READING BOOK (these can be borrowed from the school library)	SHIN PADS (in addition to PE kit)	CHROMEBOOK AND CHARGER (provided by school)
			

Year 5/6/7/8/9/10

Family support over summer

- [Free school meals vouchers](#). Bedford Borough Council are providing vouchers over the summer for all families eligible for income related free school meals. Voucher codes are sent directly by email to eligible families.
- [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme](#). Eligible families should have received an E-voucher by email that can be used to book into a variety of activities over the summer holiday.
- A number of companies are doing free or very reasonable meals for children over the summer break. There is a link [here](#) to the full list of companies.
- In need of well-being support please see our [school website](#) or email help@biddenham.beds.such.uk

Student wellbeing

Summer holidays can be difficult for some young people. This is often due to a change of routine/structure, a change in social interactions and less cognitive stimulation. A range of summer self care activities are recommended here by our colleagues at [Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families](#), [Shout](#) and more locally Bedford Borough Council have produced [‘How you feel matters’](#)

Finally, we are really excited to open our new ICT & Computing block, a new food outlet and the extension to our canteen; excellent new facilities for our expanding school. Remember that students have the Biddenham Diploma to continue working on over the summer with lots of interesting, creative and fun activities to complete. We also wanted to share with you our [Biddenham Bulletin](#) for the summer term, to give you a flavour of the range of extra-curricular opportunities, trips and visits available when your children join us. It is our hope that you will have some time to relax and unwind with loved ones, in some way over the summer break. We look forward to welcoming you to Biddenham in September!

Warm regards,



Mr D Bailey
Principal



Ms E Grylls
Head of School

Year 7		
Asst Head of KS3 Ms E Simpson		
HoY: Ms S Standage Asst HoYs: Ms C Clifton Asst HoYs: Ms E Warburton		
Assembly day: Wednesday		
Tutor Group	Tutor's Name	Base
7DJL/SAR	Mr Loveland and Mrs Rehman	T7
7DMJ/SIM	Miss Johnson and Mrs Masud	D1
7ALW/TT	Miss Warden and Dr Tawanda	E2
7CVA	Mr Amadi	E1
7LJG	Mr Griffin	E7
7FS	Mrs Stephenson	V4
7DMC/EJT	Ms Charters and Mrs Thomas	V3
7CAB	Mr Bowness	V2
7ABT	Mr Thomson	E3
7AHW	Miss Howard-White	E4