



C.P. SCHOOL
Fen Ditton Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr Mark Askew

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Dear Parents/Carers

Re: PE safety and school uniform

As we come to the end of the spring term, with a two-week break on the horizon, and we slowly transition to getting back to some kind of normality, we feel as a school, it is a good time to address the PE uniform standards.

As you will know during the winter months, with constant need to ventilate the classrooms, the priority has been ensuring children have been as comfortable as they can be and that's has meant children have been wearing a range of warm clothing around school. As a result, more children have moved away from wearing the school's uniform. With everything that has been going on with the pandemic, we have been happy to accept that pupils have been wearing a variety of non-uniform items, as it has been more practical for them to do so. However, we now feel it is important that we encourage pupils to start to dress smarter again and to get back to the pre-pandemic standards of dress code.

Another significant factor with the variety of different clothing being worn around school daily is due to our change of approach with pupils arriving in their PE kit on the days they have PE. This is something we will continue with moving forwards, but we are considering sourcing a 'PE uniform', which possibly involves a Fen Ditton tracksuit for pupils to wear to take away any ambiguity.

One of the main reasons for any school uniform is to take away any peer pressure of pupils thinking they must look a particular way and help parents by keeping things simple. With potentially a third of pupils each day wearing a sports kit, we also believe Fen Ditton tracksuits would help with an overall smartness around school and help with creating a Fen Ditton identity. However, firstly we would like to hear your views on this before we make any decision on specific tracksuits in the future.

Another reason for the time to change was due to a call we recently received from an LA PE Advisor, who had identified a potential health and safety concern as they followed us on Twitter (@FenDittonPS). This was due to pupils wearing hoodies while participating in school sport. As you will appreciate, many sports tops and tracksuits these days are designed with hoods, which does make things tricky for parents. This is why, in the future, we believe it will be helpful if we had our own Fen Ditton tracksuit to overcome this (perhaps a navy blue one).

Until a final decision is made, probably for September, we respectfully ask that pupils do not wear any hoodies in school after Easter, as this is a PE health and safety hazard, but this also applies to play and lunchtimes too. Staff also constantly need to ask pupils to remove their hoods while they are indoors too. Therefore, we recommend that pupils simply wear their normal school jumper on days when it is PE, as well as the days they do not have PE. If I can also take this opportunity to remind parents that, their child should be wearing a T-shirt in house colours or a white T-shirt as an alternative. Tracksuit bottoms, shorts or sports leggings are acceptable too.

This link on our school website confirms our uniform dress code, including jewellery information
<https://fendittonprimary.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/School Uniform Dress Code Updated June 2020.pdf>

As always, if any parent is finding it difficult to find or finance school uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school office and we will endeavour to help you.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Askew