

2nd May 2019

Dear Parents

This week I have received some feedback from parents regarding the information in the newsletter concerning the uniform changes. I would firstly like to reassure you all that I have read and listened carefully to your opinions and hope to address them in this letter. Additionally, I understand that the manner and timing of the information has left some of you feeling that the changes were unnecessary and unexpected. For this I would like to apologise and reassure you that ensuring the best outcomes for the children and families at Ropley is always uppermost in any decision making.

The reason for the changes to the uniform came about after the uniform survey in January. We had 76 responses to the survey which represents 68% of our families here at Ropley. It was this wealth of information that guided my proposals regarding changing the supply of uniform due to parental dissatisfaction in current supply and fit of the uniform. The decision to keep the brown top but change to dark grey plain items was a reflection of the desire to keep the distinctive nature of Ropley's identity whilst also enabling parents to buy a greater range of items from a greater range of suppliers. The recent feedback has indicated that brown trousers and skirts etc. are also an important part of the Ropley identity.

Furthermore, feedback received this week expressed concerns relating to the environmental impact associated with changing to grey items which would result in the unnecessary manufacturing of clothing and increase the volume of redundant clothing.

The concerns regarding the environmental impact has resonated strongly with me and this, combined with the desire expressed to keep the brown items as part of Ropley's strong identity, has led me, in consultation with the governors, to introduce a softer staged approach to the uniform changes.

New logoed items will be available to purchase from Skool kit from 1st June. The existing logoed items can still be worn in school until they 'wear out'.

The new logoed polo shirts will also be available from 1st June however plain polo shirts may also be worn. Up to date monitoring of school uniform shows that shirts and ties are only worn by a very slim minority. Shirts and ties will therefore be phased out in favour of polo shirts throughout the school. This phase will take place over the next year.

Fleeces will no longer be part of the school uniform but may, of course, be worn as outdoor wear only.

Skool kit are offering a 10% discounted period as well as a free delivery period. More details of this will follow.

Due to financial and logistical reasons the school will not be holding and selling a stock of brown items in September 2019. Any stock that we currently hold we will continue to sell but we will not be reordering any stock. From September 2019, any plain brown items will need to be purchased from alternative suppliers. I am reliably informed that M&S, John Lewis and Asda stock brown items and of course we have an excellently run second hand supply. As time passes, the supply of brown items will be monitored and should this area prove to be an area of concern then this will be reviewed with the possibility of adjusting the colour.

We have an example of a Ropley sweatshirt and T-shirt in school which looks both smart and refreshed. I will put this in the main entrance area for you to have a look at.

Once again, please be assured that your opinions are listened to as I know that we all have the heart and soul of the school in our best interests.

Yours sincerely



Miss S Vitte

Headteacher