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December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a busy and successful Autumn term, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to share some of the wonderful work that has taken place across the school.

This term has been incredibly productive. Our pupils have worked hard, shown resilience, and embraced their learning with determination. None of this would be possible without the dedication, professionalism, and care of our amazing staff.

We have already seen the positive impact of some key initiatives, including our mobile phone policy. Pupils are now able to focus on their learning without unnecessary distractions, creating a calm, purposeful environment where they can achieve their best. We are also grateful for your support in reinforcing the importance of homework and independent learning. Learning does not stop at the end of the school day, and your encouragement at home helps pupils fulfil their potential.

At Smithills, our vision is 'Success for All'. We believe that a good education and strong exam results open doors to many opportunities, and we want the very best for every child in our care. Your continued support with uniform is an important part of this, as it sets standards and expectations, and prepares our young people for the wider world. Uniform expectations are outlined below, and if you need any assistance with purchasing items, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Our Year 11 pupils are now preparing for their PPEs. We wish them the very best of luck and know that their hard work will help them achieve the results they deserve.

The Senior Leadership Team has also been busy this term engaging in outward-facing work, supporting schools around culture and behaviour, and hosting the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) conference for both secondary and primary schools. This was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the brilliant work happening at Smithills every day. Feedback from visiting schools has been overwhelmingly positive. One local primary headteacher shared:

'My SENCo and I attended the IQM at Smithills yesterday. I just wanted to share with you how professional and knowledgeable all of your staff who were involved were. It's clear to see that so much good work is going on within school and your systems and procedures are robust. The children we spoke to were an absolute delight; they spoke about the school with high regard and had genuine ambition to succeed, which had been fostered by teachers at the school. The walk round showed a very calm environment with purposeful learning taking place.'

Uniform

We expect all pupils to arrive prepared for learning, equipped with their bag, planner, and pencil case.

- Piercings:** Pupils are allowed to wear one small pair of studs in the earlobe. Multiple ear piercings or nose studs (including plastic ones) are not permitted.
- Outerwear:** Pupils must wear a coat, not a hoodie or jersey top.
- Footwear:** Appropriate **all black** footwear – no boots



Item	Expectation
Blazer with Smithills Badge on it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The blazer must be worn at all times. Please note, pupils will be advised when they are permitted to remove blazers outside of the classroom due to weather conditions.
Grey pleated skirt or trousers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knee length skirts may be worn Full length (not $\frac{3}{4}$ length) trousers must be worn on the waist. Pupils may wear full length trousers with a pleated skirt (no leggings)
Black belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only black belts with a small, plain buckle are permitted. Belts must be worn inside belt loops
White Shirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be tucked into the skirt or trousers with all buttons done up
School jumper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an optional item if pupils wish to wear an additional layer to keep warm
Plain white, grey or black socks/ black or grey tights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If wearing a skirt, socks must be white, grey or black and knee or ankle length If wearing trousers, socks must be white, grey or black and ankle length Trainer socks are not permitted
Appropriate black footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footwear must have no emblems, white or coloured markings Boots must not be worn The school retains the final decision on whether a shoe is in line with the policy
Hair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hair must always be kept off the face and not fall below the eyebrows Hair that falls below the collar should be tied back For hair that falls below the collar and cannot be tied at the back of the head, a larger headband should be used to keep the hair together Distinct shape-up/shaping of the hairline is not permitted and there should be no hair markings or shapes cut into the hair There must be no distinct contrast (including 'step') between the top, the back and the sides of the hair; any short sides and back must be blended gradually into the top of the hair Hair must be the pupil's natural colour Eyebrows must not be shaved or have any markings in them Facial hair must be clean shaved or natural The school retains the final decision on whether hair, including facial hair, is in line with the policy
Jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No jewellery is permitted, except for a single/pair of small, plain, round gold or silver stud earrings in the lobe of the ear Diamante stud earrings are not permitted. No other form of body piercing is allowed. A watch may be worn providing its only function/feature is telling the time e.g., no smartwatches, watches with alarms or sound effects, watches with calculators or video/audio recording capability Jewellery and watches must be removed before all P.E. lessons Watches need to be removed for all external exams in line with the JCQ guidance.
Head covering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faces must always be fully visible; full or partial face coverings are not permitted

Mobile Phones – A Reminder

As part of our commitment to maintaining a calm and focused learning environment:

If pupils bring phones into school they are: **'On Site, Out of Sight.'**

This means no phones should be seen or heard during the school day. If a phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day after a C2 correction.

We kindly ask that you do not contact your child during the school day and that you do not ask them to contact you. In the event of an emergency, please contact the school directly.

Communication

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via email, 'Tell Us' or by ringing the school office. We aim to respond within 48 hours at the latest. Everything you need to know about the school can be found in the **2025–26 Family Handbook** (available on the school website) which includes key information on uniform, attendance expectations, and what your child will be learning in the Spring term.

As we head into the holiday, I hope all families have a relaxing and enjoyable time. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We look forward to welcoming all children back on **Monday 5th January at 8.40am** ready to continue their learning journey.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Dewse'.

Carolyn Dewse
Headteacher