

17<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to address a growing issue in school regarding the chewing of gum, which has unfortunately caused damage to our school environment.

In most cases, the vast majority of pupils treat our school environment with the utmost of respect but since the start of this term, we have noticed an increase in instances where chewing gum is being stuck underneath tables, chairs and on carpets, leading to costly and time-consuming clean-ups. This behaviour is not only disrespectful to the school property but also costly in term of replacement carpet tiles and the time taken by site staff to remove the chewing gum from tables, chairs and other types of flooring.

You will hopefully be aware that the school has invested significantly in recent years in updating our building to improve the learning environment for our pupils. We are very fortunate, as a school, to still have many of our rooms, covered in parquet flooring which is also become more difficult to maintain with increased instances of chewing being trodden into the floor.

It should also be noted that these issues with chewing gum poses a hygiene risk when it is discarded under tables and chairs.

Currently, pupils caught chewing gum face a lunchtime detention. However, due to the ongoing nature of this issue, we are considering more severe sanctions for repeat offenders. We believe that with your support, we can address this issue effectively and prevent the need for further measures.

We accept that some pupils report that they chew gum to freshen breath but we politely request that this is done through the use of mints rather than chewing gum.

We kindly ask that you reinforce the school's expectations by ensuring your child does not bring chewing gum to school. Your support in promoting the values of being Ready, Respectful, and Safe will go a long way in helping us maintain a clean and respectful learning environment for all pupils.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J. Barton  
Deputy Headteacher