



## FLYING START

The children returned to school on Monday after one of the longest summer holidays in recent times— far too long I hear you say! We appear to have made a very good start with the whole school community settling in quickly including many new faces to be found in the playground and in the staffroom.



For the first time all of our Reception children have been admitted in one go and I thank the Early Years Foundation Stage team for their hard work in dealing with this new initiative. As you know, we have recruited two excellent new teachers, Miss Curtis and Miss Talbot, for our reception classes.

You may remember from the very last newsletter of the academic year that we now have a new staff structure in place which includes two assistant head teachers (Mrs Winslade and Mrs Smith) as well as an enhanced role for our year group leaders. I will be sending out more details about these changes next week.

Elsewhere in the school I am delighted that Ms Taljaard will be working for two days a week initially in upper KS2. Ms Taljaard will be responsible for delivering one-to-one tuition for selected pupils and also additional general support in Year 6. Mrs Cook joins the teaching assistant team and will be helping out in Year 1. And finally, although I was sad to lose the services of one of our Midday Supervisors, Mrs Morgan, at the end of the academic year, I am delighted that Mrs Gregory has returned from maternity leave and brings the team back up to full strength.

### Site Improvements

I must thank our Site Manager, Mrs Tyson, and her excellent cleaning team who worked so hard to make sure that the school was bright and clean on our return.



Mrs Tyson has also supervised a number of important improvements during the summer break. Two classrooms have had new carpets and furniture installed. The main hall lighting has been completely replaced and a host of other minor maintenance jobs have been attended to while the children have been away. I sure you will notice some of the differences when you are next in the building.

### School Closure

I have already written separately to all parents about arrangements for the ' 11+' tests that take place on Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 September.



By way of a reminder :

Tuesday 22 September

All children except Year 6 will finish school at 1.45 pm.

There will be no afternoon Nursery session on this day.

**PLEASE COLLECT YOUR CHILD / CHILDREN.  
NO ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO LOOK AFTER  
CHILDREN AT SCHOOL AFTER 1.45 PM**

Wednesday 23 September

Year 6 children to arrive at school at normal time.

All other children should arrive at school for 10.40 am start.

There will be no morning Nursery session on this day.

School finishes at normal time.

For parents who do not have children in Year 6, please make sure that you leave the school site promptly on Tuesday 22 and do not arrive with children before 10.40 am on Wednesday 23.

### Starter Pack

An important pack is being sent home to you next week. It includes a data sheet containing contact details we currently hold for your child on the office system.

This data sheet is particularly important and parents are asked to check that the details are correct and inform us of any changes. It is essential that we have up to date

addresses and telephone numbers and even if there are no changes to be made we are asking you to sign the sheet and return it so that we know that you have attended to the matter. Your help in this matter will be greatly appreciated.



## Parents' Meetings

This term's Parents' Meetings will follow the same pattern as last year when we held them at an earlier date in order to give immediate feedback on the start the children have made in their new classes.

Children's work will not be available for parents to look at. This will happen at another meeting which is scheduled for January. The meetings on Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 October will be brief (five minutes) but they represent an early opportunity to make sure your child's education is going in the right direction.



As I mentioned last year, for those parents who feel that five minutes is not long enough, these initial meetings should be seen in the context of what will happen during the course of the whole academic year. Like last year, a short interim report will be issued for all children in KS 1 and KS 2 in December. These were well received last year with many parents stating that the termly reports gave a good feel for how their child was doing at school.

## Secondary School Applications

I am sure that parents and children in Year 6 need no reminding that they have until 23 October to fill in and submit the Common Application Form (CAF) containing secondary school preferences for their child. This form has been sent home today.

Parents are again encouraged to take advantage of the online application facility, the benefits of which include:

- ? reduced number of forms going astray in transit
- ? fewer mistakes by parents filling in the form
- ? parents know their application form has been received as there is an automatic acknowledgement facility.

I am sure many of you are currently in the process of arranging visits to secondary schools. Rest assured we will provide you with another reminder of the CAF deadline a little nearer the date.



## Miss Calnan a Mum

Parents will be delighted to hear that Miss Calnan gave birth to a baby girl during the summer break. Sophie Frances was born on the 3 August and weighed in at a healthy 6lb 6oz. Both Miss Calnan and her partner Jonathan are naturally thrilled with their new family member.

## Belated Congratulations

The end of the summer term ended in a blur with an array of important school events. One happy out of school occasion I did not bring to your attention was Miss Asikainen's wedding which took place a fortnight before the end of term. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Chitambara and her husband Tatenda all the very best for their future married life.



Another member of staff who returns with a different surname is Miss Nicholls who now has charge of 4F (Miss Fleming).

## P. A. AGM

The Parents' Association Annual General Meeting takes place on Monday 21 September in the school hall at 8.00 pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

## Parent Taster Sessions

I am asking parents to take time to read the leaflet coming home tonight regarding a chance for parents to come into school on Friday 18 September at 3.15 pm and sample the food that Harrison Caterers provide for our hot dinners.



If you wish to sample the food, please visit the school hall via the KS1 playground at the end of the school day.

## Whole School Photograph

On the morning of Tuesday 29 September (weather permitting) we will be having a whole school photograph taken.

On that day only, our afternoon nursery children should come into school from 9.00 am– 11.30 am as there will be no afternoon nursery session.

## Nursery Applications

If you have a child who was born between 1 March 2006 and 31 August 2006 then you can apply for a Nursery place between now and the 30 September 2009. Please collect an application pack from the school office.