



Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### **Welcome back**

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer break. Hopefully most of you managed to have some nice days out or perhaps trips away. We have had a busy couple of weeks in school with staff in last week and on Monday and Tuesday followed by the children yesterday. Our new children in reception will be starting their time in school today! It is lovely to have everyone back and I look forward to getting to know all the new faces. We have also welcomed some children in other year groups, both towards the end of last term and this week. I know you will join me in welcoming new families to our school community as well as new members of staff.

### **New staff**

We have a number of new staff members joining us this term. We are really looking forward to working with Miss Kerry, Miss Russell and Miss Simonett, who are new teachers, as well as Miss Brown as a Teaching Assistant, Mrs Dean as a midday supervisor and Mr Barlow in the school office as an admin assistant. All new staff are excited about working with us and looking forward to being part of our school community. I am very much looking forward to working with all of them – please do say hello if you meet them when you're at school.

### **Building**

The biggest excitement as we have returned to school this week has been the building work, which on the interior is finished. It is a transformational space and the classrooms are wonderful. We have enjoyed hearing the children's excited gasps as they entered yesterday.

Unfortunately, the exterior isn't fully finished just yet, and yet again I am hoping that the rain stops! This does mean that our morning routine isn't quite as slick as we want it to be at the moment, but this is a very temporary situation. The exterior works are due to be completed in the next week. We look forward to having an official opening of the school building on 16<sup>th</sup> October, which parents are invited to and over the course of the coming weeks, we hope most of you will be able to see the changes in school.

### **Start of the school day**

Hopefully from next week, what you will find is that each class will have direct access into their classroom and the teachers will be waiting outside the classroom doors. The only class for whom this is not the case is Y6 who will enter via what was the key stage two door alongside the kitchen. Miss Howell and Mrs Moss will wait here to accompany the year six children into class from next Monday. This is of course slightly dependent on whether the final push to complete exterior works is achieved.

### **Children's birthdays**

We have been speaking in school about small things which enable us to celebrate each and every child in a special way – we already have lots of mechanisms for this, but in the discussion we recognise that a child's birthday is the perfect time for us to celebrate them. For this reason from this year, we will be allowing children to attend school on their birthday in their own clothes if they would like to. This means that anyone in school will be able to wish that child a happy birthday enabling them to feel super special. We recognise that some children may have had birthdays today or yesterday, or may not want to wear their own clothes this week even. We will therefore start this initiative from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September. If your child has had a birthday this week, they too can wear non uniform on Monday next week and we will be sure to wish them a happy birthday. Where pupils' birthdays fall in the holidays or a weekend, please feel free to pick a Monday or a Friday around their birthday.



## **KICK**

For those who don't know, we continue to work with Kick, a Christian organisation who aim to transform lives through sport and mentoring support. Andrew, who is our mentor, offers support through a values driven offer. Andrew will be in school every Tuesday and Wednesday and will also be running some after school clubs on these days – details to follow. Andrew will be working with individuals on mentoring and will also be working with some groups this year during the afternoon sessions. This is to support our pupils to grow confidence and build resilience, alongside a whole range of other skills.

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

It is very important that pupils attend school regularly so that they can receive continuity in their learning and therefore any absence requests will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances – a copy of our attendance policy is available via this link:

[attendance-policy-january-23.pdf \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](#)

*As part of our commitment to ensure that our standards for attendance are consistently high, we will be alerting parents to 'persistent absenteeism' – that which falls below 90%.*

*When deciding whether your children is well enough to attend school, the following NHS link can offer some helpful advice.*

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

It is important that we work together on supporting attendance, so please do get in touch if your child's attendance is a concern to you and there are barriers that we can help with. We are always willing to support.

## **Church school distinctiveness**

As a church school, we have, over the course of the last 6 months, renewed our church school vision and the values that we consider most pertinent to the flourishing of all of those within our school community. We also talk regularly with the children about our values and the things that make our church school special. More information on our work as a church school and about our unique context can be found in this section of our website:

[Our Church School Academy | Long Itchington CofE Academy \(covmat.org\)](#)

Please also note that in the office area there will be a confidential post box for any families who may wish to post any prayer requests as Reverend Richard has kindly offered to host a prayer space at school on the first Tuesday of every month. Anyone is welcome to attend should they wish to.

## **Meet the teacher event**

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 4.30pm all classes will be hosting a 'meet the teacher' event. In this meeting you will hear about the routines for your year group; about the topics that will be covered during the course of the year and about how you can help your child flourish in their new class. There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions. If you have more than one child in school, you should attend the class of your choosing and then attend the other classroom where teachers will be happy to chat to you informally. Any powerpoints will appear on the class dojo pages to ensure that you don't miss anything.

## **Class newsletter for each teacher**

Towards the end of this week you will be receiving a newsletter directly from your class teacher which will then be made available on the website and by dojo. This will outline the timetable and key routines.

Further to the meeting of our parent forum we will also ensure that each class sends a dojo weekly and that this contains useful information about the learning, some celebration and most importantly some photos, as that is what you told us you would like to see. We have information from your data collection about those families who do not wish for their children to appear in photographs but if you have any concerns about your child appearing in dojo posts to your class, please do contact the class teacher and let them know in case your circumstances have changed.

Please also do update the school office if there are any other changes to your data that we need to be aware of, such as contact details.

### **Other workshops**

As requested through the parent forum we will be offering workshop sessions this half term on Behaviour and Phonics which are there for families wanting to find out about our approach to these really important areas of our work. We will of course share any materials via dojo for families that are not able to attend.

### **SEND clinics**

You will have noticed that we have put out some dates for SEND clinic sessions. These are informal drop in sessions for families who would like to speak to Mrs Doberska, our school SENDco. The first of these is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 9am -10am.

### **News items from Mrs Moss**

This half term, Mrs Moss will be trialling sending a weekly newsletter to families, which she will send on a Friday – we hope this will be well received and that you will find it helpful. I will continue to send a termly update.

### **Parent forum date and activity**

We will be hosting another parent forum in the coming weeks – the date we have set aside is Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm and we will be focusing on the ways in which we communicate pupil progress to families. Please feel free to let the school office know if this is something you would like to be involved in, especially if I don't already have your details.

### **Allergies – Important**

Please note that we do have some children in school with some severe allergies so it is important that children do not share their lunch box items, as kind as they might think they are being. As well as this, I would like to remind families to ensure that they do not send any pupils with nut or nut based products in their packed lunch.

### **Collective worship**

A number of new year five children have taken on the role of 'worship team' and they are executing their roles really successfully - setting up, welcoming the classes and selecting songs. We are looking to develop our pupil led worship even further in the coming year, so please ask your Y5 children about worship.

Mondays are our usual family celebration assembly, when we have the chance to celebrate achievements in school. We will be having a celebration assembly on Monday, but won't be selecting individual children for celebration until the following Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Celebration assembly will be at 8.50am just after registration.

### **Pupil Premium Grant**

You will be aware that sometimes families are eligible for Free School Meals. This is the case if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Assylum Seekers
- An Income related Employment and Support allowance

If you are eligible to claim Free School Meals, it is important that you apply as school then also receives additional funding that can be spent on your child.

### **Swimming**

Swimming will restart next Wednesday for our children in Y3. Please ensure that your child wears their swimming kit and also brings their underwear!

### **Family Information Service**

The family information service can be a great source of information, advice and one-to-one support for families with children and young people aged 0 to 25 across Warwickshire on issues including:

- family relationships
- finance
- housing
- parenting support
- special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- childcare
- health and wellbeing

Please find below a link to their most recent newsletters: [Warwickshire County Council \(campaign-archive.com\)](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/campaign-archive.com)

If you would like to access support or discuss any issues affecting your family, the phone number for the Family Information Service is 01926 742274 and the email address is as follows: [fis@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warwickshire.gov.uk)

### **Young Voices**

Mrs Towend has signed our school up to the Young Voices concert this year and we will be performing at Resorts World Arena Birmingham on 15<sup>th</sup> January. Please see the attached link. [The Largest Children's Choir in the World | Young Voices](#)

All KS2 children will be invited to participate and Mrs Townend will be sending out a communication in due course so please do keep your eyes open for that, especially if your child is interested in a singing opportunity.

### **Harvest Festival – 25<sup>th</sup> September**

We will be collecting for the Harvest Festival as usual this year and we would ask that on this date, if you are able to that you send children into school with non-perishable food items for us to donate to Southam Food Bank. Families will be welcome to join us for this service at 8.50 am.

### **School Association**

The School Association is a group of parent/carer volunteers who organise fun events for the children and undertake other fundraising activities to raise money for our school. In the last few years they've raised money for all sorts of things like i-pads for each classroom, interactive white boards, reading schemes, library books subsidised travel for school trips, new sports kits and much more!

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.30pm at the Duck on the Pond.**

If you would be interested in joining the school association, please do pop along to the meeting.

They would welcome anyone who has new ideas, can lend a hand to support events (however much or little time you can spare) and wants to meet other parents.

### **Opportunity to support a pupil's charity work**

One of our pupil's inY3 has raised money over the summer by cutting her hair for the Little Princess Trust. If you would like to contribute to her work, please do contribute via this link! Well done Sophie! What a wonderful act of service.

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/sophie-hodgkinson-1722426280122?utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=page%2Fsophie-hodgkinson-1722426280122&utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/sophie-hodgkinson-1722426280122?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fsophie-hodgkinson-1722426280122&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share)

I hope you have found the above information helpful. As always, if you do have any queries, please do contact us at school.

Many thanks

Rebecca Richards

### **Dates for the diary**

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Children return to school
Tuesday and Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> September	Reception home visits
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> September	Reception intake start school
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Reception start school full time
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Forum (5pm)
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	SEND clinic -for families with pupils on SEND register to drop in
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Behaviour information meeting 9am
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the teacher – 4.30pm (excluding reception)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Phonics Information Meeting for reception and Y1 parents – 9am
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Festival (in school) 9am – donations for food bank
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	SEND clinic -for families with pupils on SEND register to drop in
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Welcome service for Reception class 1.30pm
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	SEND clinic -for families with pupils on SEND register to drop in
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual school Photographs
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Official opening of new school building – parents invited from 2pm
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Y6 Class assembly (9-9.30am)
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Parents' Evening (3.30-6pm)
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parents' Evening (3.30 – 6pm)
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>INSET DAY</b>

