

Headteacher's Update 8.9.23

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first headteacher's update of the new academic year. I hope you all had a lovely summer, although I did see some of you on the gate on Tuesday looking relieved that the children were returning! It's a shame that the weather wasn't so great over the break, but it has made a nice, if rather warm, start to the term.

Nursery, Reception and New Families

A special welcome to our new children and their families. The Reception children look very smart in their new uniforms and everyone has settled in beautifully. I've loved seeing them so confident and they have enjoyed using the new climbing equipment that was delivered over the summer.



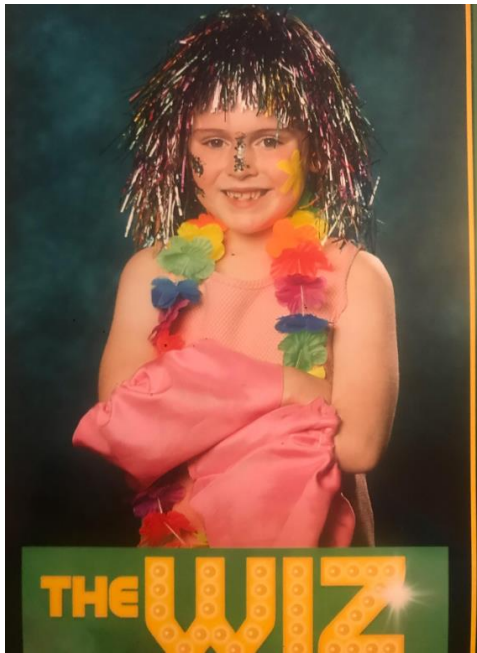
I have been very impressed with the attitude of all our returning pupils – they are polite, happy to be back and keen to learn.

Collection at the end of the day

I am aware that the collection arrangements at the end of the day can change at the last minutes. To help our staff make sure that the right people know in time please **email the school office** with your child's name, their class and the person who will be collecting them. This is a much easier way for us to manage the changes rather than phone calls. Also, I know sometimes a last minute change is unavoidable, but please give us as much notice as you can – the end of the day gets very busy in school. Thank you.

Summer Achievements

I have been made aware of a few achievements of our pupils over the summer holiday that I wanted to share with Aoife and Maggie helped raise £75,000 for Florence Nightingale Hospice. They did this by being part of an amazing production 'The Wiz'. The show and its cast practiced for 12 days over the Summer holidays then put on 2 live shows at Waterside theatre. Both girls may only have been small parts but they had a big presence every time they were on stage.



Well done girls. You look amazing and I'm sure this is an experience you will remember for a long time.

Well done also to Freya in Y4 who completed the Reading Challenge that I shared with you ahead of the holidays. We know how important reading is in helping children with their learning, but it is also great fun – transporting us to other worlds, or teaching us new facts.



Congratulations to anyone else who may have also taken on this challenge over the holidays and remember to keep reading as we return to school.

New Playground Equipment

If you haven't had a chance to see the new equipment that we've had installed, then I've included a few photos for you. We are getting closer to the project being finished, and are now awaiting the final surface to be added. Once everything is complete and has been signed off, we will be able to let the children on. There will be a rota for each class to ensure everyone gets a turn and not too many children are on it at one time.



We are looking into possibilities for the KS1 playground, which unfortunately is too small for any large equipment. It may be we are able to order something similar to the free-standing blocks that Reception now have. In the meantime, we will make sure they get some time to try out the equipment on the middle playground.

Arrangements for Parent Welcome Meetings

Teachers are looking forward to meeting you next week to welcome you to your child's new year group, set out the expectations and give you the opportunity to ask any questions. Please see the dates list that was sent out to see the date and time your child's class.

The front gate only will be open at 2.30pm. Please make your way to your child's external class door where someone will welcome you. The meeting will start as soon after 2.30pm as possible so please be prompt. When the meeting is complete you will be asked to leave the classroom and wait on the playground so that the children can come back to class and get ready for home time. We will dismiss your child as soon as they are ready and you will also be allowed to collect siblings from other classes at the same time.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please do not worry, as all the items discussed will be on PowerPoints on our school website by the end of next week.

I am really looking forward to a positive and productive new year.

Best wishes,

Mrs Machin