



8th September 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new academic year 2011 / 2012.

I trust that you have all had an enjoyable summer holiday and managed to get a rest at some point?

Bereavements

We had some sad news at the beginning of the holidays when we were informed that Mrs Storer (Patrick last year's P6) died following a long and very brave battle with cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Storer family.

I am also aware that other members of the school community lost loved ones during the summer; we have remembered you in our opening staff prayers and extend our sympathy.

Staff Thanks and News

The staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity at the end of the last academic year when we all received some lovely gifts. We are most grateful and appreciate your kindness.

Mrs A Hutchinson looked beautiful on her wedding day and a wonderful and memorable day was had by all.

Please keep Miss Simpson in your prayers; she has been in this week to help prepare for the year but goes on Maternity leave on Friday, the baby being due in a fortnight.

Congratulations

Congratulations go to Kate Reaney in P4 who has been accepted to the Royal Ballet School. This is a great achievement and we are very proud of Kate. Well done!

Calendars/Timetables

I hope that you have all received timetables / calendars which are in the front of the diaries for PP1 upwards, I would be grateful if you could read the information in the diaries and sign appropriately.

The Nursery and Reception have calendars given out separately.

If you have any queries or we have overlooked anything please contact Mrs Pickford.

Much of our information can be found on the school website, Curriculum Statements will be uploaded shortly for you to view.

Swimming this term is for P6 / P5 and commences on 22nd September leaving school at 10-00am to swim at 10-30am.

Absence and Late arrivals

Staff realise that on occasion it may be necessary for you to take your child out of school during term time. I would ask that you try and avoid this where possible.

School commences at 8-50am for Reception to P6. Anyone arriving after this time will receive a late mark although teachers do try to be flexible. Late marks are entered into the register at 9-00am.

Uniform

I hope that you have had no problems purchasing the uniform this summer.

Please can you ensure that all uniform is clearly labelled so that we can easily reunite it with its owner if it becomes separated!

Following on from last term it is important that all children are in the correct uniform.

Please ensure that **all** Pre Prep children are wearing caps and boaters. We will be making sure that they are wearing these when we go out on educational visits, including Mass as this does make us look very smart and a school to be proud of.

Walking with the Wounded

The programme featuring Captain Martin Hewitt and his friends as they walked to the North Pole was screened at the end of the summer holidays. Our opening staff reflection and whole school assembly was based on the team work and perseverance of the men to finally reach their goal.

This year our school charity is "Walking with the Wounded", which re-educates and retrains wounded servicemen and women.

We will be following Martin and his team in their endeavours to successfully reach the summit of Mount Everest and put them on "the top of the world".

Parking

Parking is still difficult and continues to be a point for discussion with the local schools and the local council. I will keep you informed if there are any developments.

Please be careful when parking.

Unfortunately, we do not have room on the school site for parent's cars. The very few parents/carers able to drive in do so with permission based on mobility difficulties.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter.

Fair Trade Friday

Just to remind Parents that our Fair Trade Stall will resume on Friday's (morning break time) Children are able to bring in a small amount of money e.g. 50p to buy a cookie or something similar from our Fair Trade Stall for their snack.

The Stall will also run for Parents to purchase goodies at the end of the school day on Friday's.

During the last academic year children and Parents supported our Fair Trade Stall and we managed to make £844.46. Thank you once again to all that supported this worthy cause.

Diary dates

- 14th Sept Individual and family photographs (am)
- 22nd Sept Swimming starts for P5 / P6
- 23rd Sept Travelling Book Fair opens
- 30th Sept CAFOD – Joe Andrew from CAFOD will be coming into school to talk to the children about Family Fast. Children will need to bring in £1 in exchange for a piece of bread and reflection (this replaces your child's usual snack)

Autumn Prayer

*O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.
As we embrace these autumn months,
May the earlier setting of the sun
remind us to take time to rest.
May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet
remind us of the brevity of this earthly life.
May the steam of our breath in the cool air
remind us that it is you who give us your breath of life.
May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds
remind us that you call us to follow your will.
We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.*

Yours sincerely,

S. D. Hutchinson .

**Mrs S. Hutchinson BEd
Headteacher**