

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to the final half term of the year and one that promises to be a busy and exciting one for the children with a lot of trips and activities planned to enhance the curriculum. With our new starters due to visit for their first taste of school and our Y6 pupils set for their transition visits to their secondary settings, it is that time of the year again when one cycle ends and another begins. Of course there is transition for all of our pupils as they get ready to make good progress across this final half term to see themselves set fair for the challenges of the new classes that await them in September.

This year, we have changes planned for the teaching staff too, with Mrs Pickering's retirement impacting across Key Stage 1. I am very pleased to announce that the governors unanimously agreed the appointment of Miss Lucie Rowe, a newly qualified teacher, who will join us to teach Year 1 alongside the vastly experienced Miss T Christie in September. Lucie is a top student and has great potential - I know that you will all make her very welcome.

Miss Watson is pleased to be taking her current Y1 class along with her to Y2. She certainly knows all their little foibles now and is looking forward to seeing them maximise their potential in Year 2. It is back to their teaching roots for Mrs Douglas and Mrs McMullen who will take their team teaching approach to Reception in September. They are greatly excited by this return and the opportunity it provides to work with our youngest children once again. I have every confidence in the new KS1 team and expect the transition plans we have in place across the term alongside CPD opportunities, to enable all staff and classes to be fully prepared for September. Plans for some reorganisation in KS2 are at an advanced stage and will be announced later in the year.

Some time ago I mentioned in a newsletter that we would be actively seeking two new governors, one, a Foundation Governor has already been appointed, with Mrs Emma Little taking up that role earlier this term. A second vacancy exists for a new Parent Governor and expressions of interest are welcomed from any interested parent / carer. Anyone who is keen should feel free to contact the school as soon as possible and no later than Thursday June 14th (12 Noon), when nominations will close. Feel free to speak to any of our governors about the role to see if you would like to assist the school as we move forward. Should more than one expression of interest / nomination be received then there will be a formal election in the coming weeks.

On another note, with the summer fair approaching, two friends of the school, Jeanette Hall and Suzanne Warnock, have agreed to be the new leads for SAPA, a big job and I'm sure that all of us across the community are grateful for this. There will be a meeting called shortly as soon as the new leads have a chance to liaise with Mrs Tiernan and Mrs Baines, who are handing over the reins. I know that there remains an army of people who are always willing to help out and we will certainly need you all in harness for the Sports and Fun Day scheduled for Tuesday July 17th (Wednesday July

18th is the reserve day should the weather be unkind). Thank you in anticipation of your support - we can't manage without you!

On Thursday June 21st we are having a special Modern Foreign Languages Fun Day with a visit from the "Natalingo bus" which will be parked in the school yard across the day with all classes visiting for a session to back up the class activities that are planned. As well as this we have a lot of trips and visits planned, one being the Y6 residential to Berwick / Edinburgh (25-27 June). Could I reiterate to all of our Y6 pupils that we have to be prepared for the British weather! It is essential that everyone, staff included, bring a decent, waterproof coat of some description. Last year a few pupils brought a selection of "hoodies" and tracksuit tops that proved inadequate for the Edinburgh downpour we suffered. Of course the weather could be absolutely fine, but best to be prepared.

It was good to see our first communicants in all of their finery again on Tuesday for Mass in school. It is a very special occasion and we wanted all of the children to celebrate with them. Thanks to Father Weymes for agreeing to have the Parish Mass in school.

Can I also remind those that haven't already done so to return the GDPR forms (two) which were sent out before the half term holiday as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing you all as the term progresses.

Best Wishes.

Yours Sincerely,

K J Smithson
Head Teacher.