



Dear Parents /Guardians,

December 2022

We now draw to a close on a very busy but productive Autumn term... I would like to thank you very much for your continued support. Thinking back to September when the pupils started their transition in to school, who would have thought it would pass by so quickly! Here we are now ready to relax, reflect this Christmastime, prepare for the new year of 2023 and indeed for a whole new academic Spring term.

A newsletter will go out **w/c 12th December** sharing the pupils' achievements this month and as usual thereafter. The newsletter informs you of activities, events, teaching and learning that have happened during the month and a reminder of dates for diaries to support your planning next term. The monthly newsletter will be sent by email as usual but please do not hesitate to inform the office should you wish to have a hard copy of this letter.

The weekly letter from the Head of School will continue to update you regarding dates and reminders. As always, our website is updated with letters and news too.

This letter today is to inform you of a couple of updates:

### **Term Dates for 2023-2024**

Term dates for academic year 2023-2024 are in the process of being finalised and approved by NPCAT. I will send these to you once they have been approved and there will be a copy on our website.

### **Sacramental Programme**

Fr Tom has arranged for parishioners in the parish to lead a sacramental programme for children in year 4. Any pupils in year 5 and 6 who didn't make their first Holy communion last year are very welcome to join in the sacramental programme this academic year. Please look out for information and communication from the parishioners in the church newsletter, their Facebook account, we will be keeping you up to date with communication and information too. The programme will commence in January 2023- more details to follow when we return after Christmas.

### **Extra Bank Holiday**

An extra bank holiday in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III will take place on Monday May 8<sup>th</sup> 2023. This means that school will be closed to pupils and staff.

For the **year 6** pupils, KS2 SATs testing takes place w/c 8<sup>th</sup> May. Ministers have considered the situation carefully and have decided that KS2 tests will take place in the same week with tests

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following the usual order but each taking place one day later than originally planned. As such, the new schedule will be: first day of the KS2 SATs testing **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May** and the last paper will take place on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May**.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR ANNUAL HOLIDAY The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006**

Amendments to the 2006 Regulations remove references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Headteachers should determine the number of days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

**Please do not book your holiday during term time or until you have requested authorisation. NPCAT is monitoring the attendance alongside the school. Please ensure your child is in school every day and punctual. Gates close at 8.50am.**

**Parking Notice- important updates**

I know that the busy location of our school makes parking difficult at dropping off and pick up times of the day. I need to update you that unfortunately **the Little Theatre has not granted permission to use their car park** so please be mindful of this when bringing pupils to school and collecting at the end of the school day.

Please could parents respect the local resident's parking spaces when parking in the vicinity of the school. A reminder that the Patrol Officer on Eastbourne Road and The Avenue is there to safeguard your children when crossing the road into school. The officers do a magnificent job in ensuring our pupils are safe when entering and exiting the school premises. If their views are blocked with parked cars, we will have a very dangerous situation indeed. Please be mindful of the role they play in keeping children safe when you speak with the patrol officers, they do a great job each and every day.

A reminder that the **school car park is for staff only** and the dropping off of deliveries. Unless you have sought permission from the school for a particular reason then please do not use this space to collect and drop off pupils.

To support you with this, can I remind you we have a breakfast and after school provision here in school which means children are in the school building from 7.45am and after school until 6pm. If you feel this will be of help to you, please contact the school and speak with the manager of this provision.

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## Teaching and Learning (T&L)

A great term's work with teaching and learning. Our curriculum is knowledge rich and sequential which allows for progression throughout the year ensuring gaps are closing. You will receive the spring term curriculum newsletter when we return in January. If you have any queries about the curriculum, do please get in touch with your class teacher who will only be too happy to discuss this with you.

Pupils from KS2 school council discussed with a visitor recently about T&L, safeguarding, British Values, school life in general and she was very impressed. The pupils were incredibly articulate and were very sure of the strengths of school and next steps to further develop. Well done to all pupils involved.

At the time of writing this letter, KS1 have performed their nativity to many, many parents. The way they read, sang and danced to the important story telling of the birth of Jesus was simply beautiful. They were a credit to the school, KS1 staff and to you. The singing was stunning, the readings clear, musicians, singers, dancers and actors so in tune with each other- it was a delight to watch. As some parents commented, the real start to Christmas has begun. I couldn't agree more!

Many best wishes to the rest of the year groups with their nativities and advent services. I know they will be just as lovely as KS1.

Thank you for attending our family mass in church on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November. The pupils led the mass and it was very much appreciated. You will be informed of details of the next family mass in January. Please do join us with your children.

## Dates

Just a reminder that school breaks up for the end of term on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** at the usual time of 3.10pm.

There is a **training day** for staff on **Tuesday 3rd January 2023** ; **pupils return on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Can I take this opportunity to ask you to think of all our families in the school and Parish community who are going through difficult times at present and to keep them in your prayers and hearts in the run up to Christmas. Thank you.

I will send a short note to you all before we finish on the 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Please take care and have a lovely week.

Mrs M Brown

Executive Headteacher

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