



Trust
Forgiveness



Hope
Justice



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,



Welcome Back

Welcome back and a warm welcome to our new parents and children who have joined our Hurst Knoll St James family. I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed the few days of sunshine we had! Welcome to two new teachers to our school, Miss Jankovic in Year 3 and Miss Harper in Year 5. We also welcome back Mrs Floyd from her maternity leave.

We have had an eventful summer of renovation in the school with a new cookery room installed in the nursery. This will allow all the children in the school the opportunity to develop their cookery skills and link with other aspects of the curriculum. The computer suite has gone and been replaced by a media suite which will be completed once the new carpet is fitted and furniture has arrived. We have also re-plastered and painted the Year 4 classroom, which now looks fantastic with new display boards to ensure learning is maximised. The renovation does not stop there with more work planned throughout the year as we continue to improve the learning environment for your children.

Uniform

It was wonderful to see all the children in school on the first day immaculately dressed which has continued throughout the week. We are really pushing for the children to take pride in their appearance and your support in this matter is vital to ensuring this continues throughout the year. Thank you for following the new uniform policy.

Parent Governor

We have a vacancy for parent to join the governing body this year. If you are interested and would like to be involved in key decisions about your school then please contact me either by email, phone or in person.

Parents Consultation Evening

We have our first parent's consultation evening of the school year coming up on Monday 19th and Wednesday 21st September. There will be some school dinner tasting sessions provided by Mrs Kenyon, our school cook and Mrs Smith will be sharing information about healthy packed lunches, which our primary leadership team (school council) worked on last year.

Letters will be going out at the start of next week and you will also receive our Home-School Agreement to read. This will have been discussed with your child in class and it is an important document that ensures we work in partnership for the best outcomes for your child. You will be asked to sign that you have read it when you meet the class teacher at parents evening. It also follows a code of conduct that we expect from adults on the school premises. I am bringing this to your attention as we have had reports of parents swearing on the playground. Please refrain from using this language in our school and in front of yours and other parents' children otherwise you face the risk of not being permitted on the premises.

Extra Curricular Activities

We will have many clubs starting the week commencing 26th September across the school and we encourage your child to sign up for at least one club. I will share these clubs with you next week once they have all been agreed and organised. We do though have some clubs starting next week! Choir starts on Monday for KS2 and letters have gone out. Our PE Teacher Mrs Oakley will be starting Hockey next Thursday for Year 5 and 6 and these letters went out on Thursday. There will also be a fitness club for girls from Years 3-6 and those letters went out today.

Attendance

A reminder that we are expecting attendance to be above 97% this year. Anything below 97% is a cause for concern and you can expect to be contacted if this is the case. Our Learning Mentor, Mrs Browe is always available to discuss any questions you may have around your child's attendance.

100%	Excellent	97-99%	Good	93-96%	Cause for Concern
90-92%	Poor	<90%	Unacceptable (Persistent Absence)		

School Trips

I am pleased to announce that most school trips will continue to be free this year. We hope this helps to take the burden and expense of school trips away from you the parent and ensure we take the children on the best trips possible to enhance their learning experience.

School Events this Term

We have a number of events and experiences for the children to participate in this term:

- Monday 19th September World Peace Day Assembly – focus on peace around the world
- Monday 19th September Parent Consultation Evening 3.30-5.00
- Wednesday 21st September Parent Consultation Evening 3.30-7.00
- Thursday 29th September Family 'share a book' time
- Friday 30th September Spanish Day
- Monday 3rd October Scholastic Book Fair
- Friday 7th October Harvest Festival led by Year 5 St James Church 2.00
- Thursday 20th October Film Night 3.30-5.00
- Friday 21st October Half term – end of Autumn 1
- Monday 31st October School closed – INSET
- Tuesday 1st November Back to school for Autumn 2
- Wednesday 9th November Café Church Year 6 St James Church 2.00
- Monday 14th November Anti-bullying week
- Wednesday 16th November Individual/Family Photographs
- Friday 18th November NSPCC workshops
- Tuesday 6th December Parliament Education Service KS2 assembly and workshops
- Thursday 8th December Christmas Fair 3.30-5.30
- Thursday 15th December Reception Nativity 9.30
- Thursday 15th December KS1 Carols 2.30
- Friday 16th December Nursery Carols/Nativity Story 11.30
- Monday 19th December Christmas Jumper Day
- Monday 19th December Christmas Service led by Year 4 St James Church 2.00
- Tuesday 20th December Christmas Party Day
- Tuesday 20th December End of term

Harvest Festival

We are asking for donations of tins and dried foods from every child to create class hampers that we can present at church on Friday 7th October as part of our Harvest Festival. We are also asking for donations towards 'Magic Breakfast', which the Parish of the Good Shepherd is supporting this year, both donations can be brought in from Monday and handed to the class teacher. We thank you for your support.

And Finally.....

Keep a check on the school events, as it will be updated weekly with any new events for the term. Have a great weekend.

Paul Anderson
Headteacher