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Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Loader BA (Hons) NPQH

Wednesday, 4th September, 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'd like to warmly welcome you and your families 'back to school' and the beginning of a brand new school year, and an extra special welcome to our new children in Acorn class and their families, and the other twelve new children who have joined us.

It has been an eventful summer holiday for us, with a massive amount of work from the site staff and EYFS and Year 1 team to ensure that Acorn and Beech classrooms are up and open for business! They have been completely re-floored, re-painted and re-furnished after the flood at the end of last term, and are looking amazing- inviting and full of interest for our youngest pupils.

The reception and library areas have also been revitalised by a re-paint and re-organisation. The library, in particular, is looking very smart with some new pieces of furniture purchased by the PTFA, which have really helped to turn it into an attractive part of the school where children can work in small groups, complete individual work or just sit and enjoy a good book.

INFORMATION EVENING

You are cordially invited to attend our annual Information Evening for Year 1 to Year 6, which will be held next Wednesday from 4-5.30pm. The evening will start off with an introduction and overview of our new curriculum by myself in the school hall, and then teachers will give three repeating twenty minute presentations in your children's classrooms, so that parents can attend up to three if they have more than one child in the school. We will then put all the presentations on the school website for reference. I would urge you to attend this event if you can, as the feedback from parents has always been that this is a useful event that enables them to understand what the children are doing in the classroom and have any questions answered.

VIOLIN LESSONS

We are looking forward to welcoming our new violin teacher, Mr Richard Partridge, to our school in the next few weeks. He is keen to encourage some more violinists in the school, so if you have a child who is in Year 1 or above and who you think would enjoy learning an instrument, please contact the school office for more details.

YEAR 4 CLARINET LESSONS

On the subject of music tuition, I am delighted to inform you that the school has signed up with the Suffolk County Music Service to offer an hour of music tuition a week to Hazel class. This is at no cost to parents with all instruments provided. After a year, hopefully, some children will want to take this opportunity further, and there will be the option to continue lessons for those who show aptitude.



EYFS TAPESTRY

Please would parents and carers of children in Acorn Class check their emails for the login details of Tapestry and make sure that the activation email hasn't gone to your Spam folder. Once you have activated your account, you can login to Tapestry and see all the exciting things your child is getting up to in school, as well as adding photos and information yourselves.

COMMUNICATION

As last year, we will be sending out a weekly Clare Bulletin which will list the weekly calendar of events, give brief messages and flag up anything you need to know. The newsletter will be sent out half-termly, and this will contain a fuller picture of the school, celebrating events and informing you of key issues and future events. In the next few days, we will be sending out a full calendar for the term; this will also appear on the school website. Occasionally, dates will be amended and extra dates could well be added throughout the term. We will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible, should this happen. Please check the bulletins carefully, as these will contain the most up-to-date information.

SURVEY

In the next few days, I will be sending out a link to a brief survey to gauge your opinion on the future of the PTFA. As you are probably aware, the number of parents or carers available to run and volunteer for school events has significantly dwindled during the last three years or so. We want to explore the different options for continuing to raise much-needed money to buy additional resources for our school, whilst acknowledging the busy lives of our parent body, which often does not leave time or opportunities for being physically available to help organise and run school events.

NEW STAFF

Mrs Katie Donnelly is continuing to carry out her work placement at our school, and will be working with Acorn class this year; and Ollie Graham, from West Suffolk College, is undertaking a work placement in Beech class.

We are still looking for Midday Supervisors, so please contact the school office for more details if you are interested in this position.

I am greatly looking forward to working with you and your families throughout the year, and getting to know our new pupils better. Please stop by the office if you have any additional questions.

Kind regards,

Rebecca Loader Headteacher.

