



12<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are just over a month into the new school year and so much has been happening in school.

Firstly, and most importantly, the children are engaged and excited about their new learning. We have many different topics being covered across the school. Year 3 were under the tables cave painting last week as part of their Stone Age learning and Year 4 have already fitted in a class trip for a Roman Day at the Cathedral in St Albans. They had the opportunity to make some authentic Roman dishes, meet a Roman soldier and re-enact the story of St Alban, which helped to bring their learning to life.



During my drop-ins to classrooms, I have joined Year 6 who were using clues to design the city of Baghdad during the early Islamic Civilisation whilst Year 5 were very focused completing book reviews on their current English text, 'Wolves in the Wall'. Year 4 have started weekly fife lessons (a mini flute) led by Cynthia Millinger which is part of a Hertfordshire Music Service 'First Access' programme.

In the lower years phonics is happening daily to support the children's reading and Year 1 proudly shared the detailed information texts they have produced about animals. Year 2 were busy partitioning numbers and I know are also enjoying their learning about London.

The children in Nursery and Reception have settled well into the routines of school and we are enjoying getting to know them all too. It is always so lovely at this time of the academic year when we get to observe the growing relationships between our new Reception children and their Year 5 buddies. It is amazing quite how quickly the bonds develop in these early weeks. The Year 5 children have been busy taking their buddies to lunch and helping them settle into new routines and they love spending time together.



In our recent Friday celebration assemblies, as well as celebrating children from each Year group, we were also able to announce which children had been successful in their applications for positions of responsibility in school. I have a lovely team of librarians who are going to help keep the library in 'tip-top condition' as Max said in his application. It would be lovely to have some parent helpers for the library too to for an hour a week to help keep things in order. Please do let the office know if this is something you may be able to offer to do.

Ms Rowe, Deputy Head, is going to train our Peer Mediators from Years 5 & 6 this year. Once they have completed their 2 days of training, they will be available at lunchtime to support positive playtimes and help younger children to come to resolutions if there are any minor disagreements on the playground.

Mr Wootton has a strong team in Sports Council this year and the children will all be Play Leaders at lunchtime, putting out equipment and leading games. I know Mr Wootton is planning a sporting newsletter shortly to keep you updated on all the football, netball and cross country events.

In the meantime, I did want to share with you that at the end of last term, for the first time ever, the school achieved the School Games GOLD Mark Award for the 2021/22 academic year. The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme, which was launched in 2012 and is facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward and recognise a school's engagement in the School Games activities against a national benchmark and to celebrate keeping young people active. We are delighted to have been recognised for our success. Our physical activity and school sport achievements this year included: (1) offering a broad range of sports in school and after school to cover all age groups from EYFS to Year 6; (2) investing in our curriculum to provide a wider variety of activities (dance, orienteering and yoga); (3) ensuring that children have opportunities to represent the school by participating in competitive events and leagues, as well as by attending activities that develop skills, confidence and inspire interest in sport. Our thanks must go to Mr Wootton who leads PE in school for his work in achieving this fantastic outcome



Children from each class have also been elected to be on School Council for this term. They will be led this year by our President and Vice-President from year 6, Estella and Ezra, who will be taking on these roles this year. Mrs Simmonds will be working with the School Council and their first task has been to organise the collection for our Harvest Assembly on Thursday. Thank you for all the contributions you have sent in that will go to our local food bank.

Finally, a couple of reminders:

- Our INSET days and term dates for the year are all on our calendar on the website. The next INSET day is on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October following the half-term holiday. Please do check the term dates before planning any holidays. No holidays will be authorised outside of term time.
- Please can parents dropping off for breakfast club use the public pavement and not walk through the staff car park. There are staff cars arriving constantly from 7:30am and the pavement is definitely the safest route. Thank you.

We look forward to seeing Year 1 parents for the class assembly on Friday morning.

With best wishes

Sharon Barton  
Head Teacher