



***'To believe, achieve, succeed together'***

21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Dear Parents

**End of Year Thank you**

As we come to the end of the school year and look forward to the summer break, I would like to take this opportunity to express my huge thanks for your tremendous support this year. The children have been incredibly resilient, embracing a return to near normality and embracing fully new challenges with confidence. We are incredibly proud of the progress they have all made.

For eight of our wonderful families, this is your last year with a family connection to our school. It will feel strange not seeing you each day but the school is a richer place because of your commitment and support over the years and for this I thank you whole heartedly.

I would like to thank my team of hardworking, enthusiastic staff for all their efforts during the year. I am enormously proud of them all; they work long hours to ensure the smooth running of the school and are dedicated to providing the very best education for your children.

The end of the school year is always a time for mixed feelings with the departure of staff, children and their families. We say goodbye to Mr Gynn, Mr Mac, Mrs Taylor, Miss Searston, Mrs Mackerness and Mr Freeman. We wish them well as they embark on new opportunities. We will miss them. Our good wishes also go to Dennis and his family as they relocate to Texas. We have really appreciated their time and support with projects in school.

We are delighted to announce Miss Pepler had a daughter on Sunday morning and named her Hazel. Both are doing well. We are looking forward to seeing mum and baby today.

We welcome Miss Curtis and Mrs Naish as our new teachers and Mrs Stapleton who will be a SEN teaching assistant. Miss Denton joins us as a lunchtime supervisor. We still have a vacancy for a part time TA in Year 2 for September and a Year 5/6 class teacher for January.

Our eighteen Year 6 students, although a little anxious, are ready to move on to the next stage in their education, equipped with the confidence and skills to achieve even greater things. My hope is that they continue to feel appreciated as very unique individuals, which we have had the privilege to know. The end of year production 'The Wall', and the DARE project were examples of their determination to succeed. We are hoping the Banbury Guardian features photographs and details of our memorable production.

Looking forward, we are welcoming ten new pupils into Beech class and a number of children into the older years who have moved to the area. After a whole school ballot, Oscar and Lacey will take up the mantle of Head boy and Head girl for 2022/23. Congratulations to them both. They will be supported by Henry and Lily.

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In September we are introducing Forest school on Friday afternoons. Each class will have a term of Forest School lessons delivered by Alex Rogers, a qualified practitioner working for S4A. Maple class will begin the year with Forest School lessons, gaining skills to impart to Sycamore, who will have their lessons after half term. Details will come home on the first day of term.

We are also launching a Young Leaders Award scheme, similar to the Duke of Edinburgh scheme but for younger children. This will offer further opportunities for our children to shine.

### **School improvements**

We are excited to inform you we are finally able to replace the toilets in Oak, Elm and Chestnut areas. They are having a complete refit starting next week. Our school grounds continue to evolve. The garden on the bottom playground has become a wonderful wild flower area. This will be allowed to grow and be managed as part of our Forest School initiative and our focus on how to be good citizens next term. Many thanks to the PTA, Moto in the Community and parents who supported our fundraising efforts this year. All monies raised will be put to good use for the whole school to enjoy.

### **End of Term**

Term finishes today at 2:30pm when children can be collected in the usual way. Gates will be opened as usual. School will remain open until 3:15 if you cannot collect your child for an early start to the break. S4A continue with their offer of After School care.

### **S4A Holiday Camp**

The camp is running for two weeks in school. Please see details on their website.

<https://s4asports.co.uk>

### **New academic year 2022/23**

The new term begins on Monday September 5th.

#### **WEEK ONE**

We will begin the school year with an Environment week. A schedule of planned events will be shared on Monday September 5<sup>th</sup>. This will include days when outdoor clothing can be worn instead of school uniform as we will be taking our learning outside for Forest School activities. We are inviting some exciting visitors into school as we focus on growth mindset and encouraging a willingness to try new things. I am really looking forward to teaching Maple for the whole week as Mrs Elwyn is not in school for the start of term.

My sincerest thanks again go to parents for your support, to all staff for their exceptional efforts, to the Governing Body for their continual support behind the scenes and to the children who make the most challenging of days worthwhile and enjoyable.

My very best wishes to you all for the summer.

Yours sincerely

*Helen Goulder*

