

Dear Parents

Welcome back after what I hope was an enjoyable summer holiday; it seems as if we are going to be able to enjoy a little bit more of summer before the winter sets in.

The start of the Autumn term brings with it an exciting buzz. We welcomed many new pupils into the school and it has been heartening to see how quickly and happily they have settled in. New staff this year include Mr Nathan Rushin in 5R; Mr Matthew Forbes in 4F and Miss Caroline Dromey into the music department.

The term has quickly got into its stride with a number of important events this month. Saturday 17 September saw the Year 3 teambuilding day. Pupils enjoyed a number of activities and challenges around the school grounds and parents returned in the afternoon for a barbeque. Many thanks go to the Sandberg, Tosdevine and Jamouneau 'teams' who despite the pouring rain battled on over a dripping barbeque. The whole day was one of friendship and fun – bringing together this new year 3 group.

The following Saturday saw a first for the school – a 12 hour music marathon. This event was held firstly to raise money for a baby grand piano, but equally as important, to celebrate and enjoy the music life of the school. Parents, teachers and pupils alike all contributed hugely to the day which saw choirs, soloists, ensembles and a jazz jamming session. So far over £900 has been raised. There were a few rather tired but contented musicians wending their way homeward at the end of a day. Thank you to all who contributed so much to making this such a successful event.

To start the academic focus of the term the whole school took part in a curriculum day with lively workshops and activities linked to learning styles. From Reception to Year 6 pupils tested their 'brainpower' and learnt about how best they learn. In the evening, Year 6 parents joined their children to pit their brainpower against their offspring.

Many classes have been out and about already this term with trips to Selborne by classes 4 and 5; and a Victorian beach day at West Wittering for Class 2. Fifty keen runners took part in the annual Butser run – with Mr Rushin, Mr Forbes and Mr Daniels showing that they are equally fit and up to the challenge! And of course, each week a class of swimmers have been enjoying the amazing new pool at the Senior School. Class 3 have been the first to benefit from this new facility.

The new year has been an opportunity to launch our link with Jamisa School in the Gambia. We hope to build and forge a relationship that will enable pupils to learn about the lives of children who live under very different circumstances than themselves. Our Arts' week has an African focus and there are a number of fundraising initiatives taking place which will enable us to sponsor 5 pupils at the school. We hope, over time, to build a strong link with the school which will broaden our outlook and perspectives.

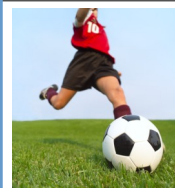
Parents, visitors in school: Settling into the new term has also seen Junior pupils responding well to the start of school procedures each day. We are keen that pupils grow in independence in this – go to their classrooms to unpack their bags and organise themselves and then go out into the playground. If a parent comes into school once lessons have started – to deliver a child, pick up a child or bring in a forgotten item, they should report to the main reception area and should not go down to the classroom or peg areas. The office staff will be there to assist.

We are always so grateful to parents who support the school accompanying trips and helping in the class. Parent helpers are very welcome to join us in the staff room at break and lunchtime for refreshments but we would ask that they do not go into the staff room at any other time as it is used for meetings and as a staff workroom.

As I write this, the sun is beaming down and all that lost summer has crept upon us. The lovely weather could not have been more timely as today, Year 3 head off to Butser Ancient Farm and Year 6 go off to camp and cycle in the New Forest ...lucky them!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR OCT

- Weds 5th Year 6 to Pulborough Brooks
- Tues 11th Class 6G to visit Senior School
- Weds 12th Year 3 to Pulborough Brooks
- Thurs 13th Class 6R to visit Senior School
- Sat 15th PA Quiz night
- Mon 17th Arts Week starts/Harvest Festival



SPORTS & FIXTURE NEWS

In football v St Edmunds, U10A lost 1-3, U10B 6-2 win. U11A drew 2-2, U11B won 1-0. U8A 3-0 win and U8B 0-0. U11 v Liphook 1-6 loss.

In Netball v Oakwood: U10 5-6 loss, U11 8-12 loss.

Against St Ives: U10 11-11 draw, U11 2-9 loss.

Netball v Dunhurst: U10 12-1 win, U11 7-6 win



Yr 3 Teambuilding—Meon