



20th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As the end of our first half term approaches, I wanted to take this opportunity to not only wish you a very happy half-term, but also to thank you for the support you have provided for the school. Most children are now arriving promptly at 8.45am and maximising their time in the classroom resulting in us being able to consistently lock the gates on time to ensure children are kept safe. I know parking continues to be a challenge for some of you, so really appreciate the effort that each of you have made in getting children to school on time.

I would also like to thank you all for attending our pupil progress meetings this week. We invited you back into school as a direct response to your requests to meet with teachers face to face and your desire to come into school and see the environments your children are learning in. I therefore hope you found our recent progress evenings and curriculum meetings both beneficial and enjoyable. I know the teachers really appreciated having the opportunity to meet with you in person and to discuss your children's learning with you.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to share with you the results of the survey we completed last academic year around our school values. Parents, children, governors, and staff were each asked to identify their personal top six school values to help us in identifying six 'golden' values that the school will adopt to underpin our whole school curriculum. Thank you to all of you who took the time to share your views. There was a mixed result however, the children clearly identified a top six which were consistent with the view of yourselves, staff, and governors. The values chosen are Friendship, Forgiveness, Honesty, Kindness, Respect and Trust. I am sure you will agree that these are fantastic values for us all to build our lives upon and by concentrating upon them, we cannot fail to positively impact the lives of the children in the school.

For those of you that attended my initial 'meet and greet' last term or completed the parent questionnaire requesting enhanced sports provision, I'm sure you will be very pleased to know that our new PE Leader- Amelia Roberts has injected a huge impetus into the development and improvement of our PE and Sports activity offer across the school.

Our PE Curriculum now has clear links to prior and future learning and is designed to ensure that every child in our school is accessing high quality PE teaching whilst also ensuring all children are taught the knowledge and skills needed for a wide range of physical activities.

I am very pleased to let you know that Mrs Roberts has responded to the recent pupil demand for a girl's football team following the inspirational success of the Lionesses during the Women's European Football championship last academic year. She has kindly volunteered to provide our Year Five and Six girls with the opportunity to train after school for a few weeks so they can

"We have faith in God, ourselves and everyone around us in order to achieve our full potential academically, emotionally, socially and physically, thereby empowering us all to make a positive difference to the world."



prepare for a forthcoming Y5/6 girls' competition as a part of the local league. Their first match will be Tuesday 1st November here at Castor against St John's CofE Primary School.

In addition to this, you will have now received an invitation from Premier Sports offering all the girls in KS2 the opportunity to train and develop their football skills further with a fully qualified coach on a weekly basis. Do however please be aware that there are a limited number of places (20) available, so please do book your child's place as soon as possible if this is something they would like to participate in. Our Year Six pupils have also been fortunate enough to join with other local schools at Arthur Mellows Village College where they enjoyed participating in a range of basketball activities and developing their sporting prowess.

We are also very pleased to be able to offer the children in Y1 and Y2 the opportunity to work alongside a professional cricket specialist, Chris Sanderson from Cricket East, the opportunity to learn cricket skills through the provision of indoor cricket sessions. This is another fantastic opportunity for the children of the school which I hope will inspire a love of sport, contribute to the children's well-being, and also develop the children's hand, eye co-ordination, batting, bowling and fielding skills in preparation for future sporting activities.

In November we are very pleased to be entering a group of KS2 children into a cross country competition, where they will have the opportunity to compete against other local children. All pupils were given the opportunity to practise within our PE sessions to support the selection process and we are therefore hopeful that those selected will not only fully enjoy this opportunity but also be in a position to do well.

I'm sure you will agree Mrs Roberts has already made a fantastic impact upon the PE and Sports provision across the school. We as a school would of course like to offer further sporting opportunities in the future but do of course need to be mindful of the impact that this has upon the work life balance of our staff and the limited resources available to us as a small school. I am however aware that within the responses to last term's survey, a number of you suggested you may have skills that you could offer the school on a voluntary basis. With this in mind, if any of you feels you could commit to supporting the school in any way please do let the school office know how and when you might be able to play an active part in supporting and furthering the work of the school by sharing your knowledge and skills with the children and staff. Once again, I would like to thank you for your on-going support of the school and wish you all a very happy half-term.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Alice Edwards
Headteacher



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