

## Headteacher's Letter

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June 2015

Dear Parent

As I write we are half way through the Summer Term with last half term proving to be short but no less busy than normal. I share with you two highlights:

- We received accreditation for **Level One of the Rights Respecting School Award** by UNICEF. The assessors said 'it was particularly notable that the school has established an ethos of mutual respect with a strong sense of community and care in which everyone is valued equally'. We were delighted that so many of the values we hold as important are recognised by this award. My thanks all the staff, pupils, parents and governors involved in the assessment, in particular to Mrs Osborne and the pupil team who have led this.
- **StockFest** was again a great success and is now in its seventh year! The event saw a large number of pupils and staff taking part – some showing their hidden (or not so hidden) talents as singers, dancers or musicians whilst others were running stalls to raise funds. We are always grateful for the very generous support of all involved to put on this event, in particular the PTA and the long standing supporters of StockFest who provide the marquees and sound system. My thanks to Mr Langdown and the pupil team for organising such a successful event which raised over £1400. The funds will go towards a school project to replace the microphone system in the main hall and support our ongoing commitment to fund the education of a pupil in the Ugandan school through the charity 'Education Uganda'.

As many of you are aware we did have a small fire at the school on the first Bank Holiday Monday in May. I am pleased to confirm this was contained to the boiler room and there was no structural or smoke damage to any other part of the school – although you may have got a different impression from some local news reports. There were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the start of the fire and it has moved forward the replacement of our boilers this summer. My priority was to keep the school open as normal once there was no risk to pupils, staff and visitors and I am pleased to report that the subsequent repair work is also not causing any significant disruption to school life.

This half term promises to be as busy:

- Year 11 (and some Year 10) **GCSE examinations** are now well underway and we wish all our pupils success as they continue to sit these over the coming weeks. Years 8 and 9 have already completed their annual examinations, whilst Years 7 and 10 are now starting. Further details of these are on Moodle for pupils and parents.
- Coming up we have **Activities Week** for Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils whilst many Year 10 pupils will be on their **work experience placements** (week starting July 6<sup>th</sup>).
- On the last day of term (Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup>) our **annual year group celebration assemblies** take place and parents are warmly invited to join us for these at the following times:  
Year 7: 9.15am; Year 8: 10.15am; Year 9: 11.30am; Year 10: 12.30pm

- We are also looking ahead to new pupils and parents joining our school community with the following events:  
**Year 5 Taster Day (June 22<sup>nd</sup>)**  
**Year 6 Induction Day (June 30<sup>th</sup>) and new parents' evening (June 29<sup>th</sup>)**

## **School uniform:**

On Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> Skoolkit (our uniform suppliers) will be in school from 2.30pm to 5.00pm for parents of current pupils who wish to purchase new uniform items for September. I would ask all parents looking ahead to September to ensure you have checked our website information regarding uniform items, especially the required styles of skirts for girls and trousers for girls/boys. We have maintained a high standard of uniform over the last two years and I would ask for your support to ensure this continues. Uniform can also be purchased from Skoolkit online or at their shop, contact details are on our website. If you have any queries regarding uniform items please do contact the school for advice before making a purchase.

## **Staff News:**

At the end of last half term we were sad to lose two members of staff and wish them all the very best in the future:

- Mr Norgate has moved to a promoted teaching post in Havant
- Mrs Wilkinson has decided to take early retirement

We are delighted to have been joined this term by Mrs Gleeson as a technician in the Art and Design Technology departments. We also congratulate Miss Barnes on her recent wedding and she will formally be known as Mrs Smyth from September.

## **Free workshops for parents and carers:**

Local workshops are being run for parents and carers during July called 'Surviving the Summer Holidays'. These will be held in Stockbridge, Romsey and Andover. Times vary with evening and daytime workshops available. If you are interested please contact school reception for further details and how to book a place.

## **Diary Dates:**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June: staff training day

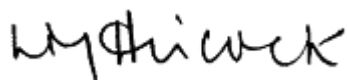
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 9.15 – 10.00am: Headteacher's coffee morning for parents

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July: last day of Summer Term

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September: Autumn Term commences for Year 7 only

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: Autumn Term commences for Years 8 – 11

Yours sincerely



**L Hiscock (Miss)**  
**Headteacher**