

Headteacher's Letter

May 2017

Dear Parent

I write to update you on our school news and key dates for the remainder of this term. These are as follows:

Monday 15th May 2017	GCSE Examinations commence
Wednesday 17th May 2017	Year 8 Examinations commence
Friday 26th May 2017	Year 8 Examinations end Final Day of half term
Monday 5th June 2017	School re-opens to pupils Year 7 Examinations commence
Monday 12th June 2017	Year 10 Examinations commence
Friday 16th June 2017	Year 7 Examinations end
Friday 23rd June 2017	GCSE and Year 10 Examinations end
Tuesday 27th June 2017	Year 5 Taster Day
Friday 30th June 2017	Year 8 Pupil Monitoring Data and Reports published to parents
Monday 3rd July 2017	New Intake Parents' Evening
Tuesday 4th July 2017	New Year 7 Induction Day Year 10 College Taster Day
Thursday 6th July 2017	Year 9 Pupil Monitoring data published to parents
Friday 7th July 2017	STAFF INSET: School closed to pupils
Monday 17th July 2017	Activities Week commences
Thursday 20th July 2017	Year 7 Pupil Monitoring data and Reports published to parents
Friday 21st July 2017	Year 10 Pupil Monitoring data and Reports published to parents
Tuesday 25th July 2017	Celebration Assemblies Final Day of Summer Term

Headteacher's Coffee Morning: Friday 9th June:

As this is such a short half term my final coffee morning for this school year will be on the above date from 9.15am until 10.00am. I look forward to you joining me for a cup of coffee if you are able to attend. It has been lovely to welcome a number of new parents to this during the year for this informal opportunity to discuss school activities and share views. At our last meeting our discussions included our Ofsted inspection in February, parents' new logon to Moodle and school funding (more on this later in my letter).

StockFest: Friday 12th May 3.30 – 5.30pm:

We are looking forward to our annual celebration of talent across the school community with the return of StockFest for its ninth year. As always there will be a wide variety of performances on the main stage, refreshments, a barbeque and a number of stalls run by pupils, staff and parents. We hope many pupils will join us and to encourage them we have made this a non-uniform day (at no cost!) so they can come ready to go on to StockFest at 3.30pm. We would also be delighted if you and your family are able to join us as well. Entry cost is £3.00 per person (free for primary aged pupils or younger). Please also note the finishing time if collecting your child.

HEADTEACHER • MISS L HISCOCK B.ED (HONS)

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Email: office@testvalley.hants.sch.uk — Website: www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk

Year 5 Taster Day Tuesday 27th June / Year 6 Induction Day Tuesday 4th July

We are looking forward to the above events. The Year 5 Taster Day is an opportunity for prospective pupils currently in Year 5 to join us for the day. Further details can be found on our website, including how parents can book a place from May 22nd. Last year places were booked very quickly and we were oversubscribed for this event.

The Year 6 Induction Day is for all pupils currently in Year 6 who have been offered a place at our school from September. I am delighted to report a steady increase again in pupil numbers this year.

Looking ahead to 2017-2018:

I am able to confirm the dates for the start of the Autumn Term as follows:

- Year 7 (i.e. new Year 7 pupils): Tuesday 5th September at 8.50am
- Years 8 – 11: Wednesday 6th September at 8.50am

I would ask that if planning to purchase any new items of school uniform for your child between now and September that you check the items meet our uniform code as detailed on the school website. In particular, with regard to the style of school trousers and skirts accepted. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us before purchasing new items.

New 'Breakfast Club' from Monday May 8th:

Our school caterers will be running a breakfast service in the canteen from the above date for a trial period. Pupil Council put this proposal forward and we are delighted to support it. Pupils are invited to purchase a breakfast, if wished, from the canteen between 8.15am and before the warning bell for the start of school at 8.50am. Although the choice will be limited we hope a number of pupils will take advantage of this new service to get their day off to a good start if they have been unable to have breakfast before leaving home. Below is further information on the choices and costs. We will review this service before the end of term.



Test Valley Breakfast Club

Starting Monday 8th May

Monday – Friday 8.15am to 8.50am



Bacon or Sausage Baguette
plus a carton of Orange
Juice £1.20

Two slices of Toast and
Butter/ Jam OR cereal plus a
carton Orange Juice £1.00



Fruit pots available
Tuesday to Friday
mornings £0.55



Staff News:

At the end of last term we were very sorry to lose Ms Hibbert (Teacher of Science) who has moved to a well-deserved promoted post in another school. Mrs Jones (Second in Science) has also now started her maternity leave. We wish them both all the very best. Currently these vacancies are being covered by temporary Science teachers and we look forward to welcoming newly appointed teachers later this year. In order to support pupils as fully as possible through this period of staffing transition, particularly GCSE groups, the Science teams are also rotating teaching groups.

Hampshire Futures Privacy Notice 2017:

I would bring to your attention the above document available to be viewed on our website. We work closely with Hampshire Futures to support our pupils' post-16 transition, particularly with Year 11 pupils. This notice is produced by Hampshire County Council to explain the sharing of information and providing details of who to contact if you have any queries regarding this.

Collecting pupils from school by car at 3.20pm:

I seek parents' support again to help us ensure the safety and well-being of our pupils at this busy time. The vast majority of our pupils walk along Roman Road or through our staff car park to come up to the bus bays and board their buses. This means for a short period of less than ten minutes we have nearly 600 pupils on the move. Despite this we still have cars being driven out of the staff car park or along Roman Road and through the bus bays before the majority of pupils have had the opportunity to safely board their buses.

I ask parents to wait the extra few minutes to allow us to ensure pupils board their buses without risk. If the buses are unable to leave sufficient room for cars to come through safely this will also avoid the issue of cars having to queue along Roman Road (or, at worse, on rare occasions exiting through bus bays on the wrong side of the road where pupils are certainly not expecting cars when crossing).

Opportunities to train to teach:

The need for good teachers in schools is as great as ever. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a secondary school teacher please do look at the information on our website about the two training partnerships our school is working in: SUPA Salisbury and the Rural Schools Alliance. I am also happy to have an informal chat about the training opportunities available if you would like to contact me.

School Funding:

In common with a growing number of schools we are finding funding is increasingly becoming an issue to cover all the costs we face. We are working hard to try and ensure this does not impact significantly on the provision for your children. The challenges this presents, however, were never greater.

I will shortly be writing to you a letter specifically about this and seeking your views on how you may be able to support us going forward. I would be very grateful if you would take the opportunity to respond to this letter to help us with our future planning for your children. I would reassure you that this will not be just about seeking voluntary financial contributions but other forms of support parents may be able to offer.

Spring Term Newsletter and Weekly Blog:

Our latest newsletter is now available on our website (paper copies can also be collected from reception or Pupil Services). Our new weekly blog is also posted on our website at the start of each week. Both provide a lovely snapshot of the many activities and events taking place in and outside the classroom.

Yours sincerely

L Hiscock (Miss)
Headteacher

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