

Headteacher's Letter

December 2019

Dear Parent

I write at the end of the Autumn Term. My thanks for your support through a very long and busy term that has seen us embedding the new House system, welcoming new staff and still working hard to take our school forward.

We have kept our behaviour management procedures under close review this term. We recognise that inappropriate behaviour at times from a small but significant number of pupils is challenging and can cause concern. I would want to recognise that the overwhelming majority of our pupils want to get it right. They continue to receive no or very few behaviour points and this needs to be celebrated. We know they are working hard and get it right, day in and day out in school. It also highlights that it is a small number who make poor choices at times and we are working hard to address this with clear sanctions when needed as much as encouraging and supporting them to engage positively going forward.

This term we have also been posting more about school life on Facebook and do encourage parents to look at this and read about the many positive events and activities our pupils and staff are involved in. Our Autumn Term Newsletter has also just been published and can be found on our school website.

In the last few days I have been delighted to visit pupils taking part in our new 'Bake Off' competition organised by Mrs Bircham. Their preparation, hard work and delicious results are to be highly commended. On Wednesday evening it was our annual Christmas Concert organised by Mrs Leyman at St Peter's Church in Stockbridge. This year it seemed particularly special with over 50 pupils taking part. This included pupils singing in the choir as well as ensemble groups and soloists. The orchestra played well and others read with gusto. It was a delight to see so many involved and representing their school in such a positive way. The spontaneous standing ovation at the end was well deserved!

Headteacher's Coffee Morning: Tuesday 14th January 9.15-10.00am

My next coffee morning will be on the above date and time. This is instead of the one I would normally hold in December, as everyone is understandably very busy at this time of year. I hope you can join me for this informal opportunity to meet.

Activities Week 2020

You will have already received a letter from Mr Murdoch-Smith outlining our reasons for 'resting' this event in 2020. Our thanks to those who have responded to share your views. We certainly hope to organise some alternative activities at this time and review again for the following year.

HEADTEACHER • MISS L HISCOCK B.ED (HONS)

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Test Valley PTA

Our PTA members continue to work hard to raise funds for our swimming pool. My thanks to all who supported their Christmas raffle and who have joined the 250 Club with monthly prizes awarded. The time and commitment given to organise their activities cannot be underestimated and we thank them for this. On Sunday it was lovely to attend a concert kindly organised by the Grosvenor Hotel in Stockbridge to raise funds for the swimming pool. The Romsey Voices Choir performed and a number of our choir took part with Mrs Leyman. The event was well supported by the local community and our pupils of course did us proud.

Staffing News

We are losing Mrs Breakspear (LSA) this week as she is moving to a new role working for a charity. We thank her for the support she has given a number of pupils. We have appointed a new LSA to start in January but still have additional hours to fill. We will be re-advertising on our school website so do share this with anyone you know who may be interested in flexible, part time hours.

We also thank Mr Hughes (Maths Teacher) for joining us for this term. We have a new Maths Teacher able to join us for the Spring Term.

In addition we also have adverts running for Office Manager and an additional Cover Supervisor. All details are posted on our website.

Parent-Governor Elections

We currently have at least one vacancy on our Governing Body for a parent-governor. I will write to all parents in January inviting applications for this important role in school. We would welcome your support by joining a committed team working hard to take the school forward. If you would like to find out more do contact me in the New Year and I or one of governors would be delighted to talk to you about what the role involves.

Key dates for January – February 2020

- Monday January 6th: First day of Spring Term starts at 8.50am
- Thursday January 9th: Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening
- Thursday January 23rd: Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening
- Thursday January 30th: Year 8 Parents' Information Evening
- Thursday February 6th: Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening
- Tuesday February 11th: Year 9 Futures Day
- Friday February 14th: Break up for half term 3.20pm
- Monday February 24th/Tuesday 25th February: Staff Training Days
- Wednesday February 26th: Return to school at 8.50am

Finally, I send you best wishes for the holiday and 2020.

Yours sincerely

Miss L Hiscock
Headteacher