



PALACE WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome Back

It was lovely to see all of our children and families back on Monday morning.

In assembly on Monday, I spoke to the children about the changes that they had seen since the last day of term last year. Their responses showed how observant they are. The answers started with some that you may expect; new classrooms, new year groups and some new staff. However, they had also spotted nearly all of the other things that had changed. How many did you spot?

- Access ramps to three sets of doors
- Three 'new' rooms – the two satellite classes and our new staff room
- Carpets in all of KS2 corridors and rooms
- A new 'meeting room'
- New seating in Acorns playground
- An outdoor classroom
- Freshly painted equipment in Acorns playground
- Freshly painted classrooms and corridors
- A more secure gate for Acorns pedestrian access
- A car park extension in Oaks car park

As you can see, it has been an incredibly busy summer! Huge thanks need to go to Mrs Emmerson, the Friends association, Mrs Thomson and especially Mr Thomson, who has worked tirelessly to support all of the work that has taken place, and then to put everything back ready for the start of term.

I explained to the children that a high-quality learning environment not only sends a clear message that excellence is prized, but it also serves as a multiplier for excellence to be achieved. We are propelled to mimic excellence when we are surrounded by it; psychologically, we defer to the expectations of the environment we find ourselves in. I told them that I want them to be proud of where they go to school and be proud of what they can achieve when they are here, so I want them to have a school that reflects that

pride. There is still some work to do, but we have certainly made some excellent leaps forward.

I also told them the story of the starfish. I explained how hundreds of starfish who had been washed up on a beach following a storm were being thrown back into the sea one by one by a young child. A passer-by, who could not believe his eyes, asked the boy why he was doing it as there were so many to save - what difference could he make. The boy picked up a starfish lying close to his feet and threw it back into the sea. As the starfish splashed into the water, the boy said, 'Well, I made a difference to that one!'

I told them this story to show them that looking after our school is everyone's responsibility. If we all look after it and treat it with respect, we will continue to make it an excellent environment that encourages our children to aspire to even greater things.

Staffing Update

As the children noticed in assembly, we have some new members of staff to welcome on board. Mrs Turner, Mr Boyce, Miss Rolph and Miss Horne have all joined our teaching staff to teach Monkeys, Leopards and Panthers respectively. Miss Deverill has also joined us to begin her initial teacher training and will be based in Bears.

In the office, Mrs Hetti has joined the team and will be working Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



Superstar Corner

DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN PICTURES AND INFORMATION OF THE SUCCESSES THAT YOUR CHILDREN HAVE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL. WE WOULD LOVE TO SHARE IN THEIR SUCCESS!

Alfie and Percy - Attendance and Punctuality

Percentage Attendance		No. of Lates	
Sheeran	96.68	Sheeran	7
Yarnold	96.56	Yarnold	1
Hawking	97.38	Hawking	5
Rowling	94.67	Rowling	0

Overall weekly Attendance 96.32%

Attendance

Hawking had the best attendance last week, and Rowling the best punctuality

Friends Information

As you may remember from information given out at the end of last term, our Friends committee members are standing down at the end of the year. The Friends' AGM will be on Monday 9th September at 7pm in Oaks. We would encourage as many of you as possible to come so that you can hear about the successes of the year and, hopefully, volunteer for some of the roles for next year

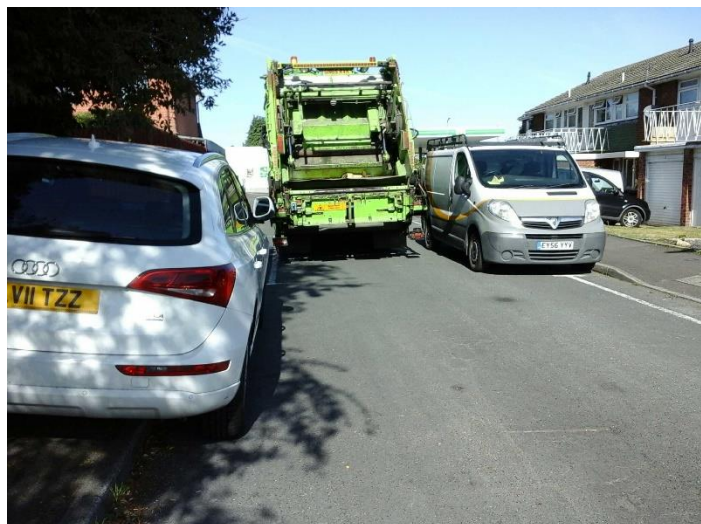
Volunteers wanted!

We are again running our Parent Volunteer Safeguarding training. If you currently are, or would like to volunteer in school, you must attend one of these sessions:

- Wednesday 18th September 9:15am
- Friday 20th September 9.15am
- Monday 23rd September 9:15am

Parking/Driving

It wouldn't be the start of term without a reminder about parking/driving. We have already had reports from parents of driving that is endangering children. The picture below was sent by the refuse collectors, who couldn't get to the school as a result of the parking. Try and imagine that a child was in need of medical help, and instead of a refuse lorry, it was an ambulance that couldn't access the school. Please remember to park considerately.



And finally

There is so much to be said for reading and its impact on children's learning. There is even some research that indicates it is the biggest factor for children's progress! I saw this image the other day and couldn't help but share it (see attachment with the newsletter!). Over the year, we will be running some workshops and information sessions on Reading for Pleasure, but in the meantime, if you would like any advice, or have any questions about reading, please come and see us.

Mr Chatley

Letters/Parentmails home this week:

Yr1 Florence Nightingale
 Yr6 Secondary Transfer 2020
 YrR&6 Height & Weight Checks
 Yr3 End of the Day
 All Buster's Book Club Leaflet & Bookmark

Dates for your Diary (new dates in red)

9 Sept 7pm Friends' AGM Oaks
12 Sept Year 6 Kent Test
16 Sept Safeguarding Training
20 Sept Safeguarding Training
23 Sept Safeguarding Training
24 Sept EYFS KM Photograph being taken
7 Oct House Day
10 Oct Individual & Sibling Photos
 21-25 Oct School Holiday
8 Nov Flu immunisation – whole school

INSET Days, when school is closed to children, are:

1. 18 October 2019
2. 18 December 2019
3. 16 April 2020
4. 17 April 2020
5. 1 June 2020