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Merja Paakkonen
Head Teacher

17th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back for the start of our new school year. The 2019 autumn term has started really positively with both students and staff settling in quickly to the new school year. I would like to warmly welcome **Callum, Connor, Rocco, Flynn, Elsie, Aayushi, Sarah, Kofi and Sayed**, our new students, together with their families to Breakspeare School community.

Our new soft play room is up and running. It is an amazing learning space and our students are very excited about their sessions in their renewed space.

We are going to trial the way how assemblies are organised at school: There will be a **theme assembly** rotating every three weeks to meet the needs of different learners such as ASD, PMLD and those who are learning through a semi-formal curriculum. Our aim is to provide the students with specifically designed assemblies to respond to their specific learning needs. There will be a separate achievement **assembly** every week that is delivered in phases (lower, middle, upper phase). Our phase leaders will send further information in due course.

We have received positive feedback from our new **Sunflower Federation home – school diary**. Most of you are writing a short comment of your child's evening / weekend / significant event at home. This information is really important to the class team enabling them to support your child's communication and socio-emotional wellbeing. Please continue to write a short feedback for the class teams. Thank you!

Calendar dates:

- We will have parents' evenings in October; the dates are likely to be Monday 7th or 14th October or Wednesday 9th or 16th October. The teachers will send the booking forms next week.
- Dental screening 3rd October
- Flu vaccinations 8th and 11th October.
- PSA (Parents / Staff Association) coffee morning 20th September (10-11.30 am)
- EMG, Early General Meeting 18th October. This is to change the constitution and the name of our PSA to FAB 'Friends of Breakspeare'. (10-11.30 am)
- AGM, Annual General Meeting 15th November (10-11.30 am)
- FAB, coffee morning 13th December (10-11.30 am)

Please note the following kind reminders;

- For out of school activities, which includes outside play time, the students need appropriate clothing such as rainwear, hats, gloves that are appropriate for the weather of the day.
- Please mark all your child's belongings with name labels or textile pens.



We have some students who eat packed lunch at school. We are currently reviewing our health and safety practice in relation to food hygiene regulations. You will be sent further information as soon as this work has been completed.

We are working towards achieving 'Careers Standards Quality Mark'. Charmaine Bromfield (phase leader / upper) will send further information about this during the autumn term.

We have a parents' governor vacancy in our governing board. Please contact myself or the chair of governors, Vanessa Robinson via the school office if you are interested in this vacancy. It is with regret to share with you that Marilyn Goldstein, whom many of you know, retired from her long standing governor post at the end of the summer term. We have been very lucky to have Marilyn first as a parent governor and later as a co-opted governor on our governing board.

It is really important for us to respond to your requests and questions promptly. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us as soon as possible if you have any concerns; we are committed to work in **partnership** with you to gain the best outcomes for your child.

Thank you very much for your co-operation!
I am looking forward to meeting you during the academic year.

Merja

