



OPPORTUNITY WITH DIGNITY

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Merja Paakkonen
Head Teacher

8th September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been very busy at school during the summer break with extensive building work and some classroom improvements. This includes the complete refurbishment of class 3, the floor replacement in class 5, a major inspection and overhaul of the site's drainage system and an inspection and the subsequent servicing of all hoists. All outdoor sandpits have been removed and we are currently planning a new area for 'our sand and mud kitchen'. During the summer our rabbits' hut was removed from class 3 playground and Belle and Ruby will shortly have a new address c/o The Sensory Garden.

By far the most expensive and time consuming summer project was to repair the front drive so that we can accommodate all the transport vehicles onsite at the end of the day. This has already proven to have a successful outcome for our students as any waiting time has been eradicated. All the students on school transport are on their homeward journey by 3.35pm.

In relation to this:-

- Parents / carers who come to pick up their child themselves are able to access the front drive at 3.35 pm when all the transport vehicles have departed and the gates have been opened.
- During the day visitors are able to park in front of the school between 9.15 am and 3.00 pm (school transport begins to arrive just after 3.00 pm)
- Please note the Parish Council has implemented parking restrictions in Manor House car park opposite the school
- I would like to extend my thanks to the parents who come to pick up their child. You have been very patient and understanding when it has taken some time to get our end of day organisation right.

I would like to welcome our new teachers Frankie Fry, Sikha Kashyap and Danielle King and wish them a very happy career at Breakspeare. Our new site manager Jo Halward is quickly learning to know our school and supporting us to promote a school environment that is right for our students. Our new learning support assistants Katie Kirby, Jade Stockwell, Stacy Appleby and our new lunch time staff Helen Brooker-Grice have had a positive start in their new classes.

I would like to welcome our new students to Breakspeare family; Karen, Yasmin, Jakaya, Ali Reza and Marlon to class 1, Ali to class 3, Maciek to class 5, Kenzie to class 6 and Hamid to class 7. It has been a pleasure to see how all our students are quickly settling into their daily routines and learning.

Darren White has started in his new role as head of department in the middle school by taking a group of students to Germany as part of our international school partnership. We have received some exciting photos of our young people experiencing new things with happy smiles on their faces.



I would like to remind you to visit our website regularly for updates and information about the latest activities at school. A couple of dates for your diary here as well;

- Parents' meetings will be held on Tuesday 27th and Thu 29th September. You will be able to book your individual time slot to meet with your child's teacher next week.
- Harvest Festival 19th October
- Children In Need 16th November
- Carol Concert with Parmiters' School 8th December 7.30 pm
- Christmas Concert 12th December

I would like to welcome all parents, especially our new parents to our PSA (Parent Staff Association) Coffee Mornings that are generally held on the first Friday morning of the month at 10 – 12 am at school. The first meeting is on this Friday, 9th September. Please keep an eye on our school calendar on our website.

The general guidance for 'Safeguarding the Children in Education' has been updated and particular focus has been put on preventative work in supporting families. Just a kind reminder that you can always contact either myself or Mrs Caroline Day-Lewis, deputy head, with your concerns and questions; we are happy to help. You will find our updated Child Protection Policy on our website by end of the month as it has to be approved at our first full governing body meeting on 26th September. We work closely and transparently with our families and liaise with other professionals as needed keeping staff training up to date.

Breakspeare School has recently received two external recognitions for its continuous high quality provision. The National Autism Society has awarded us, for the second time, with ASD Accreditation and The British Council has awarded us, again, with full International School Status; both recognitions are for 2016-2018. We are extremely proud of both of these awards. The feedback says that our high quality practice is well established amongst all staff and our students have a richness of opportunities to enhance their social, cultural, moral and educational learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact us when you have questions or concerns. We take pride in providing your child with high standard school experiences including both education and care. We will communicate with you via the home school diary, letters, telephone calls and meetings. It is really important for us to work in partnership with you and the only way to achieve this is through open and candid communication.

Best wishes,



Merja

