8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have all had a relaxing summer break. It has been wonderful to welcome back all of our staff and children. Firstly, an enormous thank you for all of the generous gifts and cards that so many of you gave to myself and the staff members at the end of last term; they really were very much appreciated by us all.

We are delighted to welcome our new Reception children, other new children who have joined the school this week and all of their parents/carers. We are enjoying getting to know all of our new pupils and families as you become part of our special school community.

The school has been a hive of activity this summer, with much renovation work going on. New windows have been fitted in the demountable, the exterior of the school has been completely re-painted, with repairs to our beautiful original hardwood windows, doors and internal skirting, new guttering has been installed, the demountable has been completely re-decorated, a new boiler and oil tank have been installed and the location moved away from the main school and (finally) the main school building has received a much-needed damp proof treatment! Phew. We are not done yet though – with the programmed of renovation set to continue into the October Half Term.

Work has also continued to further improve the Forest School area but again there is still a little way to go, but with Miss Archer commencing her Level Three Forest School Lead Training this term, we are looking forward to welcoming our sister school Moreton Say to learn in the Forest with us each Friday and are also pleased to share that we will be offering, for the first time, a Holiday Forest School Club this October Half Term! More to follow on that though! I would like to thank all of the contractors who have worked around one another at what was, at times, an extremely busy school site and who have gone above and beyond to ensure our school was ready for opening on time, and also praise our staff who have worked tirelessly during the last few days of the Summer Break to ensure that the school was dust free and ready for our pupils on Wednesday!

The Autumn Term is always a busy one and we have lots of exciting activities planned in school. Next week our After School Clubs Programme begins and this term, we have some fantastic opportunities available for our pupils. This term sees us joining with the Marches Academy Trust to provide our weekly Sports Provision and as part of this provision there will be not one but two after school clubs available to ALL pupils. The clubs will run on Tuesday and Thursday after school and this half term you will have the opportunity to have a go at Fencing and Archery. There are also sessions for Guitar, Young Voices and Lego club on offer. To sign up to these clubs please use the school Spider App to book you place!

Please do not forget that we also offer Breakfast Club (08.00am – 8.45am) and After School Club (3.15 (3.00pm Nursery) – 5.30); Monday to Friday. We are also making available a shorted slot until 4.15 for those who only need a short period of wrap around care. You can book and pay for these sessions on School Spider. Please ensure that 24 hrs notice is provided where possible so that we can ensure adequate staffing.

In addition to this we will also be running active lunch times clubs and a taught session on Thursday lunch times with activities such a Circus Skills and Glow-ercise on offer. Moving to our new sports provider also means that we will be encouraging our pupils to participate in competitions alongside other schools in a range of sports such as dodgeball, athletics, netball and football.

We are also planning other enrichment activities, such as school trips for all classes and, as usual, we will be inviting speakers and workshops into school to bring the school curriculum to life and make learning as fun and exciting as possible for our children.

Looking ahead to further along in the term and Christmas, we have already scheduled in our Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas performances. The date for Young Voices 2024 has also been set too! See the diary dates (newsletter or website) for information as we know that many of you will want to book time off work to come and watch. We are also planning a whole school trip to watch the pantomime once again, which we are really excited about – more details will follow.

We have planned opportunities to welcome you into school too. As well our usual face to face Parents’ Evening around half term to update you on your child’s progress in school we will be inviting you to an open afternoon in a few weeks’ time so that you can see all the renovation work and also some of the wonderful work on the walls that will no doubt be available to view in a few weeks time!

Friends of Adderley also continues to be an active presence and source of much appreciated additional funding this year. We aim to further improve our school/ parent relationships with the continuation of Friendly Fridays (the first of which will be on the 15th September) and the introduction of bistro tables; so please take a seat and stay a while!

We are also looking for a working group to continue to support us in keeping the Forest in check; it is ongoing and requires regular maintenance so if you think you might be able to commit to a morning/ afternoon once a month to help trim, brush, saw ... or whatever else might be needed then please let myself or our Teacher in Charge, Miss Archer, know. Thanks to funding from Friends we have been able to install an outdoor classroom in our Forest Area; this incredible resource provides a sheltered classroom environment in the outdoors meaning we can take our learning into the forest whatever the weather. So keeping the Forest accessible and limiting overgrowth is vital to our use of it on a regular basis!

**Contacting School**

We are always open and welcoming of communication from families but are mindful to keep communication as simple as possible so that messages do not get lost. If you need to contact members of staff, there are a number of avenues for you to do so. For important and/or sensitive matters, please contact the school office by email or telephone, and the relevant members of staff will be informed and get back to you as soon as is practicable. For less important messages and notes, please either:

* Speak to teachers or teaching assistants on the playground before or after school
* Contact the office who will pass your message on to the relevant member of staff

Finally, please check our school weekly newsletter and the website regularly, which lists all key events within school, has copies of all letters that we send out along other updates and details of school events for you to view.

I will look forward to seeing many of you over the course of the term at the school gates.

With all best wishes,

Mrs S. Henney