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## **TO PARENTS OF ALL JUNIOR SCHOOL CHILDREN**

Dear Parents,

Looking towards September, I write to update you on various developments at school.

### **Staff news**

As I have announced previously, Mr Bond, our Director of Studies & Head of English, will be leaving us at the end of this term to take up the post of Deputy Head at Hatherop Castle School in Cirencester. We have appointed Mrs Claire Roberts to succeed him from September. Mrs Roberts is currently Assistant Head (Teaching and Learning) at the Blue Coat School, Birmingham, where she has previously been Head of English and a Year 3 class teacher. Her son, Bradley, will also be joining us (in Year 6).

Mrs Warner (part time school nurse) is retiring at the end of this term. In addition, Mrs Batchelor (Year 1 teacher), Mrs Brace (part time Pre-Prep Teaching Assistant and Movement Teacher) and Mrs McIntyre (part time Year 2 teacher, maternity cover) will be leaving us at the end of the school year. Mrs Halford will be beginning her maternity leave at the end of June.

Looking towards September in the Pre-Prep, Mrs Quinn will be returning from maternity leave to teach in Reception, alongside Mrs Moon and Mrs Goode. Mrs Copley-May and Miss Deakins will be teaching in Year 1, Mrs Copley-May for the first half of the week and Miss Deakins for the second. In February Mrs Williams will return from maternity leave and Year 1 will then be taught by Mrs Copley-May and Mrs Williams. Year 2 will continue to be taught by Mrs Lord.

### **Playground Developments**

Those of you who were able to come to the PTA fete before half term will have admired the new no-mow surface in the Quiet Garden. I should like to repeat my thanks to the PTA – to the committee and indeed all of you who support PTA events – for their commitment to the project. Over the summer holidays, we will be extending the no-mow and installing some new play equipment. The plans can be viewed on the notice boards outside number 28, and outside the Pre-Prep.

### **Mixing classes**

It is our intention to mix the classes as they move from Year 3 to Year 4, Year 4 to Year 5 and Year 5 to Year 6. In the past, there has been a tendency for the class grouping to remain fixed year on year, meaning that the children might each remain in the same form group for up to four years. Mixing the classes year on year will give all the children the opportunity to widen their friendships and give us a chance to reshape the teaching groups every year, as the children mature and new

children join. We are working on this at the moment and will announce new forms to parents and children on our moving up day (Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June).

### **Forthcoming events**

Please do keep a careful eye on the school calendar and the Junior Times each week – there is lots going on for you and the children to enjoy. I would like to mention our Showcase Morning in particular. This is on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July, from 10am until midday. It is an opportunity for you to visit the school with your children, to see something of their work and of classroom displays, and to meet next year's form teachers. During the morning, there will be various performances in the Quiet Garden. As has been the case in previous years, it is hoped that all children (from Reception to Year 6) will attend. The children should wear school uniform (cap and hats not required). Current Nursery children and parents are also very welcome.

In addition, I look forward to seeing you all at Speech Day on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July. I am delighted to be able to announce that our Guest of Honour will be Sascha Kindred OBE CBE.

I do hope your children have all had a happy fortnight back at school after the half term break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Wright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Chris Wright