

2nd October 2023
(VM/JG)



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Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you on a few matters prior to the end of term.

Open Sessions

We continue to offer Open Sessions within the nursery and primary, welcoming parents and carers into the learning environment. Within the primary, pupils can show parents their work and learning logs as well as give a tour of the classroom. Please note that as class teachers continue to be responsible for the pupils during the session it is not a suitable time for one-to-one conversations with parents; we ask that a mutually convenient time is arranged for any conversations required. During the nursery open sessions, parents/carers can be shown round the nursery by their child, see the floorbooks as well as join in with their learning. As intimated in the newsletter, the date for the first primary open session is Friday 6th October. The session starts at 2.45pm and access to the primary is gained via 'The Street' (roughly opposite the squash courts and 2 court hall). The session ends at 3.20pm to allow pupils time to tidy up and collect their belongings so they are ready to leave at the end of the day.

Internet Safety

To help ensure safety online, over the course of last week and this week, all primary pupils will have undertaken further work in internet safety. We are aware of a number of primary pupils who are on social media such as Snapchat. If your child uses social media, it is important that this is monitored by an adult and that children are aware of who they should or should not add, how much personal information to share online, privacy settings, how to block people and report concerns, etc. One of Snapchat's features is that users can pinpoint where other users are. The NSPCC website has created a useful resources: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-snapchat-safe-for-my-child/> The CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) website features a wealth of resources for young people and parents, covering topics from gaming to the dark web and making a report: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

Parent Contact Meetings

Primary parent meetings were held last week and staff enjoyed the opportunity to meet with parents and discuss the progress that their child is making. Nursery appointments started on Friday and continue this week. The sign-up sheet for appointments is on the board in the nursery entrance area, therefore if anyone has not yet signed up please do so or speak to a member of staff.



Staffing Updates

One of the nursery Play Assistants, Miss Hobson, was successful when applying for an Early Childhood Practitioner post supporting P1 pupils. During her time in the nursery, Miss Hobson worked well with children and families to support pupil learning and development and will be able to put these skills to good use in her new role. Whilst Miss Hobson will be greatly missed in nursery, as we are one of her schools, our P1 pupils will be able to benefit from her expertise one day a week. Miss Hobson will be taking up her new post from this week.

There has been a lot of interest in the permanent teacher vacancy created by Mrs Grant moving on. We hope to have made an appointment before the end of term and will let primary seven parents know of the arrangements for next term once they are finalised.

The Sky Room Principal Teacher vacancy has been advertised as an Acting PT post. Applications closed recently and interviews are being held in the first week of next term.

As usual, if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Vicky Marshall
DHT Primary

