



SUMMER

20th July 2021

Nurturing each and all. Guiding, Trusting, Inspiring and Celebrating

Dear Families,

Thank you does not nearly express my gratitude to you all for your support throughout the last year. When I look back on my newsletter at the start of the Autumn term, it held such promise and excitement. Little did we know how badly we would be hit later in the term. Despite numerous positive Covid cases, isolation periods and the need to call in supply teachers, we all survived and made it to Christmas – thank you. In January, despite rising cases, we all returned to school for just one day– your trust in us has been unwavering – thank you. Home schooling was a massive learning curve for everybody and despite the challenges, we all engaged and worked through this period together, showing great resolve and resilience – thank you.

I think, for our entire community, there have been some very low moments and I am sure that on occasions you have questioned our decisions and judgements, but you have adhered to our requests and followed procedures with us. At the point of writing, the cases in Oxfordshire are rising again and many schools are having to isolate pupils. As a parent, I am all too aware of the impact that this has, as my daughter is currently on her 8th period of isolation, and yet we all keep going. Your children do us proud. Each morning they walk through the gates eager to learn and to immerse themselves in the values and ethos of our school. They are a credit to you and it is a pleasure for us to share the day with them.

And here we are now, with everything crossed, that we make it to the finish line without further cases or isolation periods. This term, we have managed to hold our Country Dancing morning, we have had class picnics and tea parties, Year 6 have had a day of Circus tricks, and yesterday, the ice cream van made an appearance for them! We could not have done this without you, so a massive **THANK YOU**.

Moving forwards, I sincerely hope that next Autumn holds greater promise, not only for us as a school, but the wider community and the country as a whole. From 19th July, stage 4 of the Government's road map states that bubbles will no longer be necessary in schools from September. However, we have to wait until the last week in August to receive our guidance for opening from OCC and Public Health England before we can finalise arrangements for the start of the Autumn term. Once we have read and digested the guidance and rewritten our risk assessment, an email will then be sent out to you to clarify the position for our return.

I would like to thank every single member of staff for all their hard work throughout this crazy year. Their commitment to our school has been incredible and the strength of our team shines through. They are an amazing team and I am so very proud and thankful to them all. I would also like to thank the Governing Body for their continued support and expertise, that ensures the smooth running of the school.

Thank you!



Respect, Honesty, Friendship, Compassion, Thankfulness, Wisdom

Farewell Year 6

And now it is time to say farewell to our wonderful Year 6 pupils. Every year I say that they are a credit to St Kenelm's, and this year they most certainly are. It has been a tough year for them and yet they have never grumbled, they always engage, are polite, kind and thoughtful. They have blossomed into independent individuals who have been a joy to teach. We will miss them greatly. They are ready to move on to their next chapter and we are certain that they will thrive in their new schools. This morning, each child has received a Bible from the St Kenelm's School Charity, a leaver's hoodie and a copy of their Year 6 leaver's book, kindly provided by the SKSA. We hope that, despite this strange time, they will take away many happy memories and will seize new opportunities with confidence. Good luck!



Mrs Knight's Retirement

2021 marks the end of an era for school. Today, we say goodbye to Mrs Carol Knight who joined the St Kenelm's team 22 years ago. This morning we were able to present her with vouchers for Jackson's Art Supplies, to enable her to indulge in her love of all things arty. Mrs Knight has always supported the Y3/4 children, initially working with Mrs Davis, then myself and currently Mrs Bradshaw. Mrs Knight has been an integral part of our school and her departure will leave a massive hole – particularly for me. She leaves us with so many wonderful memories and we wish her well in her retirement.



Staffing

We also say good bye to Mrs Sophie Walker, who has supported us in school over the last 2 years. Mrs Walker initially joined us as a volunteer and over the last year, her involvement and support within KS2 has been invaluable. Thank you.

In September, we will be welcoming a new full time TA, Ms Charlotte Elling, to work in KS2.

It has been lovely to welcome back Mrs Caroline Abell who has visited us this term and we are hopeful for her return in the Autumn.

Summer Maths Resources: Please follow the link to access free resources for the Summer.

<https://whiterosemaths.com/morrison/>

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SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please refer to the school uniform list on the website before you purchase new clothing for September.

SCHOOL SWEATSHIRTS

If possible, please buy the sweatshirts with the school logo for the new term in September. Witney Shirts are also offering sweatshirt cardigans, fleeces and white polo shirts with the logo. All these items are optional. Please note that the fleece should be worn as an outer layer on top of the sweatshirt and not instead of the sweatshirt. Witney Shirts now have a full selection of sizes of all garments. Please ensure that all uniform is named with a permanent marker.

AUTUMN TERM starts on Thursday 2nd September 2021.



And finally, thank you for your many kind word words and gifts that we have received.

On behalf of myself and all the staff, we would like to wish you all a wonderful Summer holiday.

Best wishes,

Handwritten signature of a staff member.