



21 April 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school. I hope you managed to get a good break and that you and your children are ready for the Summer term.

With Year 6 taking their National Curriculum Tests (SATs), Year 2 getting ready for their National Curriculum Tests, class assemblies, coffee mornings and other social events this is going to be another busy half term. Here are a few important things you need to know about:

Staffing updates

We have a new class teacher starting with us this term, so would like to welcome Ms Hart to the school. Ms Hart will be taking over Class 4J.

Also, we send our congratulations to Miss Staines, who was married during the holiday. She will now be called by her married name, Mrs Gardiner, and will be back teaching in Class 1SC until the end of the academic year.

School Meals

As most of you will know, Olive Dining are our new school caterers and they started to provide school dinners this week. We are very excited to be working with Olive Dining and are confident that you will start seeing some real improvements in the quality and variety of food your children eat at school. We want as many children as possible to have school dinners, so do have a look at the new menu, copies are available on the website and from the office.

Parental Involvement

Our weekly coffee mornings for parents and carers start again next Wednesday, 26 April. Our new Family Liaison Officer will be attending, so do come along for a tea or coffee and a chat.

Thank you to those of you who came to our Quiz Night last term, it was a really successful evening. We will be organising another quiz night later this half term, so keep an eye out for details.

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Year 1 Phonics Workshop

We are holding a workshop for parents/carers of all children in Year 1 to look at the upcoming phonics screening tests and ways in which you can help your child prepare. The workshop is on Tuesday 2 May, at 3:20pm.

Upcoming Trips

5 May: Year 2 to Chessington Zoo

10 – 12 May: Year 5 Residential to Hooke Court

National Curriculum Tests

Year 6 will be taking their National Curriculum Tests (SATs) during the week beginning 8 May. The children, their parents and teachers have been working very hard to prepare for these tests and we wish them all the best. More details about arrangements will be sent out to Y6 parents soon.

Use of the field

Now that we are in the summer term, the children will be using the field much more at playtimes and lunchtimes. This gives them a lot more space and freedom for play and we are very lucky to have such a great asset at Monks Orchard. We do expect all children to be on the field when it is use, as it is not practical to supervise both the field and the playground at the same time. Children with hay fever should be fine to play on the field. If they need to bring in antihistamine medicine, you must provide a letter with clear instructions about its administration before we can allow your children to take it in school. If you have any questions, just talk to your child's class teacher.

General Election

You will have seen in the news that the government have called a General Election for 8 June. As I write this letter, we have not yet heard whether or not Monks Orchard will be used as a Polling Station. As soon as we hear anything we will let you know, as we would have to close the school to children on the day **if** we are a used as a Polling Station.

Thank you for your continuing support,



Guy Fairbairn
Headteacher