



***'Together, with the love and joy of God, we will discover, develop & maximise our unique potential.'***

Dear Parents,

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### **Information Letter 2 – Autumn Term 2023**

School has got off to a flying start this year! Our Early Years pupils have settled in well, attending collective worship daily and making new friends. Year One have been busy working on a joint art project with the church, Year Two have been fantastic site managers taking care to ensure all pupils are safe on the school site, Year Three and Year Four pupils have adapted well to a day of teaching in the Computer Suite (due to roof works) and our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils continue to be good role-models, taking on a range of leadership roles.

### **Pupil Leaders**

Tomorrow, our new Play Leaders and Sports Crew will be undertaking training lead by Alex Repton, School Games Organiser for Wyre Forest and Worcester City. These pupils will then organise activities and playground games for the other pupils. Thank you to the pupils who completed their application forms to officially take up these positions.

Our new Chair of Governors, Daisy Rees-Evans, will be quizzing some of our Year 6 pupils soon about the Head Pupil leadership roles. A short-list has been compiled by the staff and these pupils will soon be called to interview!

### **Little Princess Trust**

Libby in Year Three has decided to cut her hair to donate to the Little Princess Trust as well as raising some money for the charity. A number of our pupils have supported this initiative over the years and we are delighted to promote their efforts on our newsletters. To donate to Libby's Just Giving page please click on the link sent via secure text later today.

### **New School Roof**

Following successfully applying for a DFE Conditions Improvement Fund the school roof is currently being replaced. The building work commenced during the summer break and will be completed at the end of October. The disruption will be kept to a minimum for our pupils and school will be able to operate as usual. However the external school site does look a little different as we have scaffolding, a builder's compound, and Heras fencing.

### **Congratulations**

It has been wonderful to see lots of pupils already receiving a Congratulations card for living out our school vision:

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We look forward to many more pupils' efforts being celebrated in our weekly Congratulations Assembly. If your child receives a card/certificate you will be notified by text about the good news.

### **Forest School**

Mrs Greenstreet has been busy behind the scenes undertaking her Forest School Leader qualification. She now offers a weekly Forest School session to our Year One pupils. The PTA very kindly funded Mrs Greenstreet's training, knowing that as a school we value Forest School in our curriculum.

### **Community Awards**

The CEO of Avonreach, Mr Hanson visited school today along with Mrs Turvey, the Executive Assistant and Mike Hodges Chair of the Pershore Civic Society to present some of our pupils with Community Awards. Congratulations to the following pupils for their contributions to the local community: Lillie – Anna, Erin , Amelia D (Y6 leaver), Nora, Violet, Harriet, Brooke, Alice, Luna, Elsie, Poppy and Chloe.

### **Attendance**

Our whole school attendance for last academic year was high at 95.5% against the National Average of 92.5%. We have come back to school even stronger this year with a current attendance figure of 98.2%. Keep up the good work!

### **Pre-loved Uniform**

Our pre-loved uniform will be on sale every morning in the foyer in exchange for a donation to the PTA.

### **Art Project**

Back in the spring term, Rev Mark asked if NJK would join a steering group to help make St James Church a space for arts and creativity. We are incredibly lucky that a wonderful Christian artist Kay Mason has offered to work with all year groups during this academic year.

Kay has been setting up a 'Create Pray' group for adults at St James and St Mary's over the past year. She has formulated a child-friendly version where each class will be inspired by 'It's a wonderful World' song and lyrics and will create pieces of artwork over a half term.

This project will culminate in a KS1 art exhibition at church in the spring term and a KS2 art exhibition at church in the summer term. Pupils' work will be displayed and mounted by Kay. Parents and children will be invited to attend the art exhibitions.

Each class will also attend church once as part of the input. Dates for the visits are Tuesday afternoons. Not only is this a fantastic art opportunity but the sessions are based on mindfulness and spirituality.

### **Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)**

We do not have any confirmed RAAC in our building and have not been asked to close any areas. However, we want to take care and to be sure, and are currently working with the DfE to actively check whether RAAC has been used in the construction of any part of our buildings. If RAAC is identified, we will let you know straight away, and we have contingencies in place.

Any contingency plans will prioritise the continuation of education and ensure that, if RAAC is identified, any impact on pupils is kept to an absolute minimum. As always, the safety of our pupils and staff is of paramount importance.

### **Prayers for the start of this academic year**

At the start of the new year at school we pray for all teachers, wider school staff and learners.

May they start each day clothed in your light,

May teachers and wider staff see the needs of each individual and remain patient and insightful and true to their calling. May they find rest and encouragement and chance to stay fresh and keep learning as well as giving. May they know that, even when things seem hard, they are making a lasting difference and giving people the tools to change the world for the better.

Jesus, clothe them in your light.

May learners see the opportunities before them and be blessed with teachers who find the right way for them to learn. May they be compassionate and supportive to those who learn alongside them. May they grow in confidence and wisdom as well as just knowledge, and inspire them to use what they learn to help others.

Jesus, clothe them in your light.

May we also keep on learning, never resting on our laurels but open to new opportunities, questioning and searching, and seeking to know you more. May we seek out the dark places where your light is needed. Grant us the courage to step forward and make a difference.

Jesus, clothe us in your light.

Amen

Lord Jesus Christ

This is our school, let your light shine here.


Let the rooms be full of joy.

Let love be all around-love for one another; love for all people; and love for you.

Let us remember that, as many hands build a house, so many hearts build a school.

Amen

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J Dean'.

Mrs J Dean  
Headteacher