



Dear Parents

Friday 11th September 2020



Our first full week back has been blessed with glorious late summer sun and we have been making the most of our beautiful grounds and the outdoors. It has been wonderful to hear the sounds of play and our Little Acorn joiners exploring their new surroundings. Meanwhile, Prep Department boys have been having a belated cricket season, which we hope will prepare them well for next summer. We hope that we managed to keep your children looking as clean and tidy looking as possible before their individual photo yesterday, which you should be able to view online immediately using the card they have brought home.



A definite highlight of the week has been seeing Year 8 candidates for House Captain delivering speeches to their fellow Year 8 House members. It was impressive to see the preparation many had put into this and the gravity with which they approached delivering their address. Year 8 appointments for Heads of School, Prefects and House Captains will be announced in Prep assembly on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, with further Prefect appointments towards the end of term. Elections for the School Council, which this year will include Year 2, take place the week after, with the new Chair then elected the following week.



Mrs Harries read the story *You are Brilliant* in Pre Prep assembly, featuring Mr Men and Little Miss characters demonstrating the different ways we can all be brilliant. The children thought about their strengths and which character might represent them. In Bird Families, we elected our new Top Birds and talked about the Town Close Way. Headmaster's Assembly for Prep pupils was about courage and opportunity as well as some of the dilemmas we face in deciding when to go for something. We enjoyed a lovely vocal performance of *All I Do is Dream of You* from *Singing in the Rain* by Isla. Meanwhile Mr Avenal led Year 3&4 assembly about expectations for these children as they

start the new school year.



Mrs Harries and the teachers enjoyed the Pre Prep curriculum evenings on Zoom and I hope these proved useful and informative, much as we were sorry that current circumstances meant we could not gather in person. Year 3 & 4 form teachers have an initial meeting with parents (now via Zoom) early in the term on 24<sup>th</sup> September and appointments will open as usual via our booking system. The Year 8 parents' evening on 29<sup>th</sup> September will also need to be different from usual. With multiple individual teacher appointments for everyone not practical on Zoom, subject teachers will give feedback to each child's tutor and parents will be invited to one extended Zoom meeting with the tutor. Year 5 will now have a single parents' evening on November 5<sup>th</sup>, with a chance to meet both form teacher and tutor.



Plans for the Year 7 CE evening, due next Thursday, have also changed with teachers recording their presentations next week prior to this film being released on our YouTube channel next weekend. Meanwhile, plans for Pre Prep and Prep productions are going ahead in an adapted form with rehearsals and performances in bubbles only and the likelihood that these will be filmed beforehand and released as live on the day.



This week I had time to get to know Chestnut class as we chatted during lunch and met a number of our new Little Acorns in the garden. It was good to see many Pre Prep parents at drop-off and pick-up with our younger children all waiting nicely in their groups at the end of the day. Year 3 children told me about their first DT lesson, an exciting and important subject they start in the Prep Department, and it was lovely to catch up with Year 6 pupils and hear about lessons with some of their new teachers. I visited the library on Tuesday lunchtime and found lots of children enjoying reading and relaxation in this beautiful space.



I wish everyone a very enjoyable weekend.

With best wishes



*Nick Jennings*