

September Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and for our new parents, welcome to the school. Having now completed the first week back, can I thank you all for preparing the children so well for their return and helping us to get them in, when another week at home is preferred. It has been a pleasure watching them return this week after what is a really long summer break and settle so quickly. We have been particularly impressed with the Reception children who have taken the first days at school in their stride and I am sure they are ready for a restful weekend.

Sports Mark Award

We are really pleased to announce that the school's commitment to an active education was formally recognised through achieving a Gold School's Games Mark. This is a government-led assessment of school's PE provision that look to evaluate four key areas:



- **Participation** - engaging as many young people in sporting activity as possible
- **Competition** - exposing them to as many different types of activities and competitions as possible
- **Workforce** - involving pupils in leadership activities alongside taking part in competitions
- **Clubs** - local links with clubs or establishments from the area

This was an area of the school where we have looked to excel as this links so clearly with our TEAMWORK values. It is really great to see that the hard work of Mrs Turner, Mr Smalls and Mrs Whitby, in particular, has been recognised in this way.

School Building Work We are currently completing the second phase of replacing our 20+-year-old flat-roof. With such an extensive piece of work (seven classrooms and two cloakrooms), this was always planned to run into the start of term. The work is on schedule and we should look to be completed in the next few weeks. This should not affect the children's learning at all.

I am very aware that a new flat-roof is not the most exciting school development; however, the heavy rains in the last few weeks have really illustrated the importance of such work and the drastic impact its failure can have on our ability to educate your children.

Unfortunately, the school suffered two separate floods affecting eight classrooms with substantial damage in two. Luckily, we were able to repair this in time for the children's return; however, with the computing suite affected, the children will not be able to use these devices until a full redecoration of the room in the next few weeks. The children will be learning using iPads and laptops instead this term.

School Uniform/Heating Bills With the cost of living crisis continuing to affect us all, we would like to remind you that we still have a number of preloved jumpers/cardigans particular sizes 28 and below available. The school is reviewing its uniform currently to ensure that we limit the impact of this cost on families and we would ask any families who are struggling to contact the school. What is clear however, is that with our utilities bill set to increase by around £60,000 this year, therefore, it is likely that the school will be slightly colder than we would wish this winter.

Staffing Updates We are pleased to welcome Mr Lindley as the class teacher in Rowan class; Miss Martin has joined Cedar class as a Teaching Assistant and we are happy to see Mrs Bamber return from maternity and resume her role in Juniper class.

PTA The Parent Teacher Association returned with gusto last spring, running some great events and raising thousands for the school in the process. Their first event takes place on September 24th, with a fun run at the school. We hope to see you there. This is always a great way to meet people

