



## **FAMILY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2019**

As I write this newsletter on Monday, I am looking forward so much to the start of the new school year. After many years of headship, the day we open doors each year never fails to delight me. I hope that our returning pupils are excited about their class groups. I know that new pupils will be a little bit nervous and I hope that by the time you receive this letter, that their first day has been a happy one.

Staff are busy as I write preparing for that day and we have some curriculum and timetable developments ready to share. These are a natural extension of the excellence that already exists here in our care and personal development of pupils and will support the high attention we have to emotional and mental health and wellbeing.

Use of the pool will begin from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

Friday afternoons will be led by senior teaching assistants and will be based on social skills and health related activities under the supervision of key stage managers. This will enable teachers to have their statutory non contact preparation time with as little impact on the main teaching week as possible. It will provide pupils with enjoyable, inspiring and positive experiences at the end of their busy weeks: activities will range from swimming/singing/board games/festival learning/story time/sports groups/ and learning party games depending on the needs and ages of each class group. Your child's class teacher will provide more detail.

In addition to this, we have altered each days timetable to provide a "wellbeing" short session of 20 minutes after lunch play as part of our commitment to achieving a positive balance between academic stretch and emotional and mental health each day. Again, each class will plan their own appropriate activity and the aim is that pupils will begin afternoon lessons calm and content and ready to learn.

Each class is also timetabled this year for a bespoke reading (story) session each morning.

For the first time this year KS3 pupils will benefit either from Forest School activities or from weekly swims.

I hope that you agree that these developments are very positive and I look forward to your feedback at our first parents event.

### **6<sup>th</sup> form curriculum**

Saffron Walden farm animal course starts next Tuesday

CRC transition course starts after October half term

Work experience placements normally start after October half term

### **Medical forms**

We appreciate there may not have been any changes to your child's medication over the summer but it is a requirement we have new forms every year and without new forms we

cannot give any routine or occasional medication so please could any outstanding forms be returned as soon as possible, thank you. If you need a form then your child's teacher will be happy to send one home. All forms can also be found on our website, downloaded, printed and sent in your child's diary.

**Finally....**

Please be patient with our bus loading at the end of each day: we have 141 pupils to ensure get on the right transport with the right escorts or parents and it is essential that we do that in a calm and measured way with double checking when required. That does take a little while especially at the start of the year.

Best wishes

Lucie