



6th September 2019

WELCOME TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR OF

2019

Well this time last year we were settling nicely into the year when we got the very unexpected and early Ofsted call! That seems like a lifetime ago. 2018-2019 saw our school reach success in every area like never before.

I was at William Morris on Wednesday morning to settle all the children in and I have to say that the maturity, behaviour and general sense of calm throughout the school is a real testament to how remarkable our school is. The school, as ever, is incredibly focused with very organised teachers and teaching assistants. I cannot wait to see what 2019-2020 brings us and I am so looking forward to the next chapter in our journey with you all.

A few messages/notifications about the year ahead, please do read it all (grab a cup of tea) as the information is important.

- 1. Leadership** – A reminder of who is who this year: Julie Hiddleston (Headteacher) but not on site every day, Ally Johns (Deputy Headteacher) and very much the go to person who leads on a daily basis, Claire Martin (Deputy Headteacher) who will be on site once or twice a week, Kelly DeSantis (Senior Leader) on site once or twice a week, Tonya Way (Senior Leader) on site every day, Becky Jones (Assistant Headteacher) on site twice a week and Sarah Obinna (Assistant Headteacher) on site twice a week.
- 2. Morning routines** – use the pedestrian gate as usual, children to line up outside their classrooms as they come in. Teachers will be outside the classroom and available for any quick/urgent messages first thing for 5 minutes before the children go in at 8:40am. Please do not chat to them for extended periods of time in the morning as they need to get the class sorted, instead make an appointment or see them at the end of the day. You will also notice that we have introduced morning greetings whereby the children will shake hands and greet their teacher on the way into the classroom.
- 3. Building works** – as usual, the building works were delayed. Imagine if schools operated like the construction industry, we'd never get anything done! As you can see the cages are up indicating the sections of the grounds that are out of bounds. The work will include a newly landscaped early years outdoor space as well as a second parent entrance built at the top of the driveway. The work will be on-going for most of the Autumn Term but I would not like to even guess a date as whatever I say, I am sure it will be delayed!
- 4. STEAM events** – as with last year, we are running different STEAM challenges every term with an event at the end of the term. At the end of this letter will be a list of key dates including the STEAM event.
- 5. Headteacher Address 18th September 5:30pm** – At the beginning of every year I would like the opportunity to share with all parents the plans for the year ahead. This is a very important meeting for you to be at as I will introduce our new curriculum and give you some of the new national highlights from the government that will affect your child.
- 6. Teacher information meetings** – these will be next week and it is an opportunity for you to meet the teacher briefly in the classroom to find out a bit more about that specific year group and the expectations and

arrangements for the year. These are for year 1 – year 6 as reception and nursery parents had their information meetings in July. It is highly recommended that you attend if possible.

7. **Children walking home** – a reminder that **only children in Year 6 are allowed to walk home alone**. They can only walk home on their own with a written and signed consent letter from the parent explaining the reason and what the arrangements are at home when the child gets there so that we know he/she won't be home alone.
8. **Mobile phones** – a reminder that **only year 6 are allowed to bring in a mobile phone if they are walking home alone**. The phones must be handed into the office in the morning and may be collected again at the end of the day.
9. **Friends of William Morris** – in next week's newsletter we will be inviting parents to attend and form the new group. If we don't have parents joining/forming the group, then unfortunately our usual events such as Christmas Fayre, Halloween Disco, Summer Fayre etc. will not be possible. I would also like to say a huge thank you to the members of the FOWM last year who worked tirelessly with low numbers of volunteers and supporters but still managed to put amazing events – THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU and we really hope to see you return with all your experience.
10. **Parent Forum** – we also have a Parent Forum group that runs at least once a term. This is a really important opportunity for parents and senior leaders to work closely together to make our school even better than it already is. We need to do brand new elections this year and we need one representative from each class. Please can you let Mrs Duckett in the office know if you would like to put yourself forward. If more than one parent nominates themselves in a class, then we would arrange a class vote.
11. **Clubs** – club notification will go out next week with clubs due to start in week 3. Please make sure that you contact the office to book a place and don't assume that your child will be able to join on the day if a place hasn't been booked.
12. **Daily Mile** - we are extremely excited to be introducing the 'Daily Mile' at our school from next week. This is a fabulous initiative which has a proven track record of boosting fitness and lowering obesity levels across the country. Initially the children will be taking part straight after lunch for around 10 minutes. All children will be taking part and can choose whether to walk, jog or run. You might even find the teachers taking part!
13. **READING READING READING** – We are passionate about promoting reading throughout the school and creating a 'reading rich' environment for our children. Please support us by reading to and with your child **every day for at least ten minutes**. This can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school all the way to secondary. Please record your reading in your child's reading diary and send it in to school every day for the teachers to check and change books.

Some key dates for this term:

Tuesday 10th September – Kandinsky Class teacher/parent information meeting straight after school in class
Wednesday 11th September – Seacole Class teacher/parent information meeting straight after school in class
Thursday 12th September – Valentina Class teacher/parent information meeting straight after school in class
Friday 13th September – Da Vinci Class teacher/parent information meeting straight after school in class
Tuesday 17th September – Shakespeare Class teacher/parent information meeting straight after school in class
Wednesday 18th September – Headteacher Address for all parents (national educational updates) 5:30pm
Tuesday 22nd September – STEAM end of term event (afternoon, time to be confirmed)
Thursday 24th October – Term ends at 3:05pm
Friday 25th October – INSET day for teacher training (no children in school)

Yours faithfully



Julie Hiddleston
Executive Headteacher