

7 September 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome back to St Faith's after the long, hot summer holiday. Whilst many of you might think we've been resting, far from it, the school has continued to be vibrant, busy and alive with children, staff and contractors. The nursery has been full with children attending the all year round care, older school children have happily appeared for holiday care, tutorials, sports courses and some just to water the vegetables in the nature garden (some of the biggest marrows, cucumbers and sunflowers I have ever seen).

Many of you will have noticed the transformation of the Reception and Upper Nursery play area. The old fencing has been removed and replaced with new gates, the whole area excavated and covered with a new rubber pour surface (please don't walk on it with stilettos!), with lovely new coastal and forest murals on the walls with exotic and native animals painted by Mr Clark. The front of School House has also had a complete makeover with a new stone garden. Pollyanna's playhouse has been moved to the Nature Garden for the Nursery children to use and Groundcare have been maintaining the grounds on a weekly basis under the hot sun.

We welcome Nikki Beeson, our new Year 1 teacher to the staff and wish her well. We also welcome her daughter Erin to Nursery as well as Mrs Bowyer's son Henry in Year 2. Mrs Rosenz is back and goes from strength to strength following her operation, and continues to amaze us all with her resilience and courage.

We are all excited about the new academic year and relish the thought of all the hard work, sport, music, drama and accompanying entertainment that will follow in the next three terms. There has been a great deal of investment in IT with new iPads, computers, interactive whiteboards and laptops, and it is our intention to continue to develop computing as one of the flagships of St Faith's.

The roll within the school is continuing to flourish with discerning parents from local primary and independent schools in the area making the move to St Faith's. Funding cuts in education have seen state schools slash budgets for resources and site upgrades, making support and specialist staff redundant, all having an adverse effect on the well-being and learning of children. At St Faith's we continue to invest in quality staff, develop our resources and are constantly refurbishing the school grounds and buildings, thus bucking the trend. Having said all that, we continue to cap our class sizes at 18 (with the exception of Year 6 who we are preparing for the large grammar school classes) and are committed to providing a creative and challenging curriculum.

Finally, I would like to remind you that I have an 'open door' policy and should you have any queries or concerns, no matter how small, please do not hesitate to come and see me. I have every confidence that this term will be as colourful and lively as the Autumn leaves which will soon start to fall and wish all families the very best of luck at work and home.

Yours sincerely

Lawrence Groves
Headmaster



An independent prep school and nursery for boys and girls aged 2 to 11

St Faith's at Ash School Limited, registered in England number 08101221