

4th September 2023

Dear Parents

It is with great pleasure I welcome you back to an exciting new academic year! I hope you have all enjoyed some valuable family time and pupils feel rested and ready to return to school.

Our magnificent sport hall is now complete and ready for use! We will be able to start using this state of the art new facility from today, Monday 4th September. We plan to have assembly and sports activities in the hall today, which benefits from underfloor heating, powered by a ground source heat pump and thermostatically controlled ventilation.

We will be hosting an opening event in the sports hall in the coming weeks, which parents and family members can attend and admire this amazing project which is now complete and will add value to our already excellent school. My thanks go to Wishford schools, in particular Gary Vaughan and the construction team from Breem who have worked tirelessly through the holiday to complete the project in time for the start of term.

The Autumn term promises to be full of lively and inspiring events starting with our STEAM day this coming Friday 8th September. Pupils will be designing propellor driven boats that will be launched across the swimming pool! Our community minded Harvest festival collection this term will be for local food banks. The celebration will be led by Year 2 on Friday 6th October. Open Day will also be on 6th October enabling visitors to see our excellent school on a working day, which is a change to our usual Saturday Open Days.

Mr Clarke has been working hard to ensure the swimming pool is ready for swim sessions and (STEAM day demonstrations) especially as the weather in the coming weeks is due to improve (at last!) Swimming caps are a must and the office has a stock which can be purchased for £3.50 please ensure your child has their kit in school.

I must highlight how grateful I am to our amazing year round staff who work through the holidays to ensure wrap around care runs smoothly. Also, Mrs Bourne in the office who is always on the end of the phone, Mr Hay, Mrs Plummer who keep the wheels turning and Mr Clark who maintains our site and pool so well throughout holidays.

I have been in touch with Mrs Mackey to ask after Mr Mackey's recovery. She reports that his recovery is slow but positive and he will be starting sessions with the occupational health team in the near future to support his progress. She sends many thanks to the St Faith's family for their continued support.

Please join me in congratulating Mr Mackenzie and his wife on the arrival of their second daughter. Both mother and daughter are safe and well. Mr Mackenzie will be taking paternity leave and will return on Monday 11th September. Mr Andrews will be the class teacher for 5MA until Mr Mackenzie's return, at which point they will return to their prepared timetable.

Further congratulations must go to our very own Mrs Latham who has been awarded Kent Welfare Hero 2023 by the Kent FA (Football Association) for her work safeguarding junior football teams in the area, alongside her work with Woodnesborough Football Club.

Finally, I am looking forward to a busy term. For some it will be their first term in school (Reception), for others their first term at St Faith's, for many it will be the next step as part of their St Faith's journey.

My door will be open for both pupils and parents and will continue to work together with our fantastic teaching team to ensure the teaching and the learning experiences of your children are of the highest standard.

Best Wishes

Helen Coombs

Headteacher



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