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Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**We are a Caring, Celebratory, Courageous, Christ-inspired  
Community, rooted in love.**



Dear All,

Welcome back to all of you! Welcome to those of you who were at BJS last academic year and welcome to those of you who are beginning your BJS journey with us. We hope that you have all enjoyed a relaxing summer break and are raring to go with the new school year that lies ahead and the next stage of your child's education.

Despite the school year being only three days young, it has been great to begin meeting many of you and getting to know your children. I know that there are still many more of you to meet so, as I wrote back in the summer term, please do come and introduce yourselves either at morning 'drop-off' or at the end of the day, if you are able to do so.

Speaking of morning 'drop-off', please do come onto the school site to take your child to their entrance door. Gates open at 8:30 and will be locked again at 8:40. Just to reiterate: an adult (teacher or LSA) will be at each entrance door every morning as the children enter the building. Should you have a brief morning message you would like to pass on to your child's class teacher, you can do so either by speaking with the adult on the door (who will pass the message on) or by emailing the school office. **No adults are permitted to enter the building at the beginning or end of the day, unless it is the main office.** Understandably, the safeguarding of all children is paramount. Child-collection arrangements at home time will remain as they were: gates will open at 3:05 and class teachers will bring their class out onto the playground at 3:10 where parents and carers will be waiting. Your child's class teacher will hand your child over to you once they see you. Please be patient as once again, your child's safety is a priority and we must ensure all children are handed over safely. Gates will be locked again at 3:20. As per our **Safeguarding Pupils Drop Off and Collection Policy**, (on the school website) only children in Year 5 or 6 will be permitted to leave the school independently and walk home once we have parental permission. All Year 5 and 6 parents and carers should be receiving a separate email about this later today.

As well as welcoming our new families from Waynflete, Southfields and other schools, we also welcome several new members of staff to our BJS community. The warmest of welcomes to: Mary de Frates who is training alongside Mrs Eaton this year; Mrs Emily Gough in Year 3; Mrs Alison Watts in Year 4; Miss Madison Malin, Mrs Ros Pantrey and Mrs Susanne Ruff who are all in Year 5 and Miss Kate Wiggins in Year 6. All our new members of staff (including myself!) are very much looking forward to being an integral part of the BJS community and working in partnership with you and your children.

All staff have been extremely busy with readying their classrooms for the new school year and they look fabulous, pristine and ready to go. Thank you, staff. A special mention also to Mrs Tracey French for the fabulous artwork and displays that adorn our school hall, library and Reception and to Mr Cupples who has worked through the summer to get the school ready for this term, overseeing electrical works, decorating, mending, furniture rearranging and countless other tasks besides.

My professional priority between now and December will be to continue to absorb as much information about BJS and its community as possible. This process was started back in May with the help of Mrs Preet and the outgoing Chair, Mark Sinclair. I am extremely grateful for the time they afforded me and the BJS knowledge they imparted to me. As part of the information-gathering, a parent survey will be emailed out to you next week. Again, as I wrote in the summer, I believe that strong home-school partnerships, parental engagement and open communication are vital in building a strong, supportive community around the child, so I urge you to please complete the survey if you are able. I appreciate that lives are very busy so it should only take approximately 5mins. of your time to complete. If you have any difficulties accessing the survey, please do let the office know. Your children will also complete a short survey together with their teacher. I will share the main points of the survey with you in due course.

In the meantime, if there is anything at all you need or wish to discuss in relation to your child, your child's class teacher should always be your first port-of-call, and you are welcome to do this through either emailing, phoning the school office or speaking with your child's teacher directly. Please see the attached Communication Pathway for your reference.

Below you will find just a couple of key reminders and key dates for this term. Many dates have yet to be finalised, but these will be made known, once they have been.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Akers  
Headteacher

**Reminders:**

- Please ensure that your child's water bottle is named.
- Morning snacks are to be healthy snacks only please e.g. fruit, cheese, breadsticks.
- For those who wear earrings, only studs are to be worn. Your child should either be able to remove them on PE days or bring micropore tape to cover them up.

Date	Event	Where	Time
27 <sup>th</sup> September	Macmillan Coffee morning	School hall	9am to 10am
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Classroom Afternoon	Your child's classroom	2pm
Week beginning November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Online Parent Consultations	Online	TBC
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Open Classroom Afternoon	Your child's classroom	2pm
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term		3:10pm