

Final Half Term!

We have just seven weeks left of this school year and once again I think we are all surprised at how fast time has gone! I talked to the children on Monday about making the most of the final weeks in their present classes and making every day count in terms of their learning, their friendships and their involvement in school life. The recent awful tragedies in Manchester and London have shown us just how important it is to not take anything for granted and to make the most of every day and every opportunity we are given. We will be doing our best to encourage this attitude in the children and each other over the coming weeks.



Y6 and Y2 SATs and Y1 Phonics

Well done to all the children in Y6 who tackled challenging tests last month and were extremely sensibly and mature throughout the whole process. Y2 children have also been fantastic at completing test papers as part of their usual lessons during May. We are very proud of you all. **Y1 phonics screening check will take place next week.** We know you will be brilliant too!

Nursery Outdoor Area

The Early Years team have created an outstanding outdoor learning area in front of nursery and the staff spend a lot of time preparing the activities and putting out resources. **Please do not let children play with this equipment whilst they are waiting on the playgrounds** as this then requires staff to go back out and rearrange equipment before they can use the area with the children once lessons have started. Thank you for your cooperation.

Staffing, Classes & Funding 2017-18

As you know, our school has quite an awkward admission number which can mean in some year groups we have numbers that are too high for one class but not quite high enough to generate sufficient funding to make two full classes. Wherever possible, we try hard to keep our class sizes small as we know that this makes a real difference to our children. This year we have had three mixed Y1/2 classes who have then been taught in separate Y1 and Y2 groupings each morning for English and maths. We will be repeating this model next year as you can see from the staffing table over page.

We will also be using this model in lower Key Stage 2 where we will have three mixed classes of Y3 and Y4 which will then split each morning into two Year 3 groups and one Year 4 group for their English and maths lessons. By doing this, the majority of morning teaching groups are less than 25 children; all classes are below 30 and each class will also have teaching assistant support.

You will be aware from the news that school funding is in something of a crisis due to increased costs and no additional funding. We have had to set a budget with a real term reduction of nearly £80 000. This has been challenging but we have done everything we can to prioritise age related teaching, class sizes and a quality teaching team. Over the coming year it will be necessary to ask for increased contributions to additional activities such as trips in order for us to provide these. Traditionally we subsidise these to almost 75% and sadly there is just not enough money in the pot to continue doing this.

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Wahid at the end of the term as she relocates to Oxford where her husband has a new and very exciting job! We will be welcoming two new teachers onto the staff in September – Miss Bambridge and Miss Tumelty –

both of whom will be teaching in Year 3/4. I know that both teachers are really looking forward to joining the school. Miss Bambridge will actually be in school for the final few weeks of July, teaching in Y1/2, as sadly Mrs Harris is not able to finish the school year with us. It will be particularly helpful for Miss Bambridge to get to know some of the children that she will take forward into her class in Y3/4 in September. I am hoping that Miss Tumelty may be released from her current commitments in order to spend a little time with us before the summer break.

AM Nursery	Mrs Dowson
PM Nursery	Mrs Willis
Reception	Mrs Smith
Reception/Y1	Mr Jukes
Y1/2	Miss Robson (Y1 am)
Y1/2	Miss Bailey (Y2 am)
Y1/2	Mrs Gardiner (Y2 am)
Y3/4	Miss Bambridge (Y3 am)
Y3/4	Miss Tumelty (Y3 am)
Y3/4	Mrs Lockey (Y4 am)
Y5	Miss Shadforth
Y6	Miss Glindon
	Mrs Scaife (Y6 am/PPA pm)

On **Friday 7th July** your child will be spending the day with their new teacher in preparation for moving on in school in September.

Uniform

Please remember that school uniform should not include any additional features such as decorations, sequins or other ornaments. Earrings should be small, plain studs and hair accessories should be subtle and simple. Socks must be worn and open toed shoes are not allowed. Children will be asked to change any items that do not support our agreed uniform. Thank you.

Values at Viewley Hill

Our assembly value this half term is **SERVICE**. We will be using the following poem to help us with this and, as before, you might like to look at this with your child and find out what they understand about **SERVICE** and why it is important.

Spending time on others
Enjoying giving help
Responsibility in action
Volunteering willingly
I can help
Committing to a task
Everyone offering their gifts and talents

Can you think of ways to encourage your child to volunteer to do something or help out around the house and local community?

Dates for the Diary

Remember to check the website, school app and Marvellous Me for messages and updates.

Please note that school will finish for the summer on Thursday 20th July and will re-open to children on Monday 4th September.

5 th June	School re-opens
12 th June	Phonics Screening Week
14 th June	SRE Coffee & Information Morning
16 th June	Around the World Day
21 st June	Reception new starters' meeting 11am
22 nd June	Class Assembly – Mrs Wahid's class
27 th June	Consultation Evening Nur, Rec, Y1,2,4,5
29 th June	Consultation Evening Nur, Rec, Y1,2,4,5
30 th June	Family Friday – Year 6
3 rd July	Y6 Transition Week
6 th July	Consultation Evening Y3 & Y6
7 th July	Transition Day in school
18 th July	Choir Performance 9:30am
19 th July	Summer Picnic (pm)
20 th July	Leavers' Assembly 10am
	School closes for summer break