

FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

A belated welcome back to the Summer term! I hope you all enjoyed the two weeks' holiday and the rather wonderful weather that came with it: I had a lovely time sorting the allotment, walking the dog and persuading my five year old that it would be a nice idea to keep the Knex tank model I spent *three* hours building for a couple of days rather than breaking it up and making another one straight away...!

This half term is particularly important as our wonderful Year 6 children take their national End of Key Stage Two tests (SATs) the week after next. We wish them the best of luck! Other summer term events include Sports' Day, various school trips, two theatre visits and a summer fayre – look out for letters and texts with more details over the next few weeks!

Iain C. Gilmore

FACEBOOK PHOTOS

I know that many of you enjoy our regular updates on our Facebook page. We want to make more use of the page especially during school visits and residential so we can show you what is going on without having to wait until photographs get uploaded to the website.

Quite rightly, our rules do not allow us to use our personal mobile phones to take photographs which makes updates difficult. However, I have been given an official TSAT iPhone for work use. This is subject to a huge number of restrictions and is centrally managed by the Trust's IT team – for example, I cannot download any apps! It seems that using this to update Facebook would allow us to keep you informed whilst following our rules on personal phones. We will never name children; the photographs would be deleted after uploading to Facebook and we would always check permission with you. Finally as comments are not allowed, children would not be accidentally named by other parents.



We are piloting this with the Year 5 residential and I welcome any comments about this idea particularly from parents worried about privacy.

PUNCTUALITY

To begin with, I would like to thank the many of you who work so hard to make sure your children get here on time: this shows them the importance of school and gets them into good habits which will serve them well at secondary school and, eventually, at work.



However punctuality is still an issue with an average of 60 late arrivals every week. This is unacceptable and must stop. Therefore, I am making the following changes. Children who arrive after 8:55am will now be marked as “late after register closes”. This is 15 minutes after we open the gate and 5 minutes after the start of lessons. Parents of children who are regularly late will receive warning letters and, if their child is late more than ten times in a term, will be at risk of being issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.



The guidance is that regular attendance is not possible if children are regularly late and at junior school level, that responsibility lies with parents. We do understand that there may be exceptional circumstances – this measure is aimed at regular lateness throughout any one term.

As you know, I prefer carrots to sticks but I think you will agree that lateness has got to the point when I am left with no alternative.

PARENTS' EVENING

We have two Parents' evenings this term on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd May. No matter how hard we try, letters and slips do get lost so we are trying an online booking system. More details will be in a letter sent out next week so please look out for it. We hope this will make booking an appointment much easier for us all!



TRANSITION

By now parents with Year 2 children will have had their allocation letter. We're pleased to report a record number have chosen Brunel as their junior school! All our transition work does not start until late June/early July so please don't worry if you don't hear anything from us until then.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Thank you for all your efforts over the holiday with uniform – the school has never looked so smart! As we are supposed to be heading towards hotter weather, can I remind you that gingham dresses and shorts are acceptable but no “beachwear” please. Given our stairs, flipflops and other “open heel” shoes are not allowed but sunhats are a definite yes please!



TERM DATES

We will be sending out a list of key dates for the term as soon as the late few arrangements have been confirmed. For now here are the term dates:

Summer Term 2017 Monday 24 April - Tuesday 25 July

May Day Monday 1 May

Half Term Monday 29 May – Monday 5 June (INSET) children back Tuesday 6 June

Please note that we do not close early on the last day of the school year!