



LITTLEGARTH
A truly independent school & nursery

8th September 2017

Dear Parents

NEWSLETTER 2017/18 – 1

A very warm welcome back to all our children and parents at the start of another new school year. A special welcome to all our new families who have joined the school. One of my great pleasures as Headmaster is seeing so many happy faces and this Wednesday was no exception. A few tears from some of younger children soon dried up and by mid morning, they looked as though they had been here for years!

We hope that you have had a wonderful summer; refreshed and ready for an exciting Autumn Term ahead.

Fun House, Sports, Drama and 11+ preparation were some of the activities held in school during the holiday and many of our pupils took advantage of these events. Our thanks go to the staff involved and to the children for their enthusiasm.

I am sure you were all delighted to see how much work has been completed on our new building project. Walls are being painted, ceilings and fixed furniture fitted and heating and lighting are being installed. I do not have a final date for the handover yet but we are confident the children will be enjoying the new facilities soon after half term.

Staffing

This term we welcome some new members of staff:

Miss Niamh Ging who joins us as Head of Modern Foreign Languages. As well as French which will continue from Nursery through to Year 6, Miss Ging will be reintroducing German in Year 5 and 6 and we hope that Spanish will be the new language joining this. Miss Smith (Year 1) will be teaching Latin to our Year 5 and 6 children. I hope your children will enjoy their new language lessons.

We have three new members to our backroom staff, all of whom joined at the end of last term so are settling well. Mrs Saunders joins the team in the Bursar's office, Miss Stratford and Mrs Burton join our catering team and all are enjoying getting to know your children.

A warm welcome to them all.

New Parents' Coffee Morning and Friends of Littlegarth School

We shall be holding a Coffee Morning for our new parents on Tuesday 12th September at 9.00 am in the Mallett Room, next to the School Office. Invitations are being sent either by letter or email but all new parents are welcome to attend. This will be a chance to meet each other, members of staff who are not teaching at that time and members of the Friends of Littlegarth.

The first meeting of the FLS takes place on Friday 22nd September at 8.40 am in the Dining Room. We anticipate that this meeting will finish by 9.30 am at the latest.

All Littlegarth parents are welcome and are encouraged to attend as you automatically become a member when your child starts with us.

Two of our very big and exciting events happen this term with the Bonfire/Fireworks evening and the Christmas Bazaar.

I hope that lots of you will be able to join us.

Events

Hopefully you will have received the school calendar outlining the term's activities. Events for the coming weeks are listed below.

- Tuesday 12th September 9.00 am. New Parents' Coffee Morning
- Friday 15th September 11.00 am – 12.00 noon. Nursery Teddy Bears' Picnic
- Tuesday 19th September 7.00 – 8.00 pm is the Year 5 Parents Information Evening regarding Future Schools in the Mallett Room. Please note that many senior schools' Open Days are imminent. Parents will be given a list on the evening but please refer to the relevant school website and local press for further details as some may occur before our meeting.
- Thursday 5th October is Littlegarth Day of Languages. It has become a Littlegarth tradition to either dress in red, white and/or blue or in a national costume. The highlight of the day being a French breakfast of croissant and chocolat chaud. All are encouraged to speak in French or another language if known. Any dual-language children are welcome to teach their class a greeting or to count to ten!

Open Morning

Our first Open Morning of the academic year takes place on Friday 29th September between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon. If you have friends or family interested in joining us, please encourage them to visit. I am delighted that we have very few places left in the school, including Nursery which is full for this year, but we hope prospective parents plan ahead so they are not disappointed!

Head Boy and Head Girl

You will see from the school calendar that Ned Ferguson and Hannah Karlsson have been appointed as Head prefects for the year. Congratulations to them and to all the Year 6 prefects who have already embarked on their duties with both enthusiasm and efficiency.

Clubs

All clubs will begin on Monday 11th September with the swimming beginning on Tuesday 12th September. (The swimming rota can be found on our website).

Equestrian Team

I am delighted that Ms Anna Bancroft (mother of Henry, Zac and Daisy Cave) has volunteered to organise an equestrian team. If your child is a keen rider and you would like them to take part in National Schools Equestrian Association competitions, Littlegarth will be a registered member with the NSEA this year and we are keen to put together teams for some of the competitions.

Ponies should be a minimum of 40cm (1ft 6 in old money) – so there really is something for everyone. If you & your pony are interested please get in touch with Ms Bancroft: anna_bancroft@hotmail.com

There are lots of different competitions at different levels through the year – starting with “Grass Roots” on Sunday 17th September.

Peripatetic Music Lessons

I am delighted that so many of our children take part in various peripatetic music lessons.

If you would like your child to play an instrument, please contact Mrs Pashby.

Those playing instruments, either in or out of school, can take part in our tea time concerts which take place in the Mallett Room. Again, if you would like your child to take part please let Mrs Pashby know in advance.

Health Check Forms – IMPORTANT

We will be sending out copies of your child’s last contact information and a new Health Care Form next week. Please could you mark any changes to the contact information in red and complete the Health Care Form and return these to us by Friday 15th September at the latest in order for us to have the most up to date information on your child.

Year 6 Examinations

The Autumn Term is especially busy for our Year 6 children who will be working hard for senior school entrance exams. All are given the chance to sit practice papers under test conditions so that the real experience does not seem so daunting. Good luck to all those who will be taking the Colchester 11+ examination next Saturday 23rd September. During the coming weeks all Year 6 children have a mock interview with me in my office.

If your child has a real interview looming, kindly inform the form teacher so that we can prioritise the appointments.

We are sure that this is going to be an exciting and successful year and we cannot wait to work with you to get the very best out of the children. Please remember that if you have any concerns, contact your Form teacher as soon as possible.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Peter H Jones