

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow! What a week this has been. We knew we might get a call from His Majesty's Inspectors at some point this year, but we weren't really expecting it in the second week of term! Suffice to say, the whole school community pulled together to share what a special place we have here. The children, families, staff and governors were wonderful throughout the inspection, and I was incredibly proud of how everyone represented our school.

What stood out most was the calm, kindness and confidence that shone through across the school. The children spoke beautifully about their learning, their friendships and the things they enjoy about school. Staff were able to share the care, thought and hard work that goes into school life every day, and our governors were also able to give their valuable time to support the process. It was exhausting, as these things always are, but it was also a real reminder of just how much we have to be proud of.

We thank you for your unwavering support that shone through the parent survey, which showed that 100% of you would recommend our school, with some of the best Parent View data the inspectors had seen. They were also able to share some of the beautiful comments recorded in the free text section, which we do not get to read ourselves. Thank you — it really helped, and it meant a great deal to know that so many of you took the time to respond so positively. There will be some time between the inspection and the release of the report, as is the usual process with fact checking and quality assurance. I will share the outcomes with you as soon as we are able.

I was very pleased that the FOBS team decided to postpone the AGM on Thursday; I'm not sure I would have been too awake during the meeting, as the week really has been exhausting — my apologies if I have yawned at you at the school gates! Thank you to everyone for your understanding. The AGM has now been re-arranged for 13 October at 6.15pm. FOBS do so much to support the school, and the AGM is a useful chance to hear about plans for the year ahead and think about how we can all help. I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Our wonderful new cohort of children in Acorn Class have just finished their first full week of primary school and were presented with their very own Bishopstone Bear during our celebration assembly this morning at St Mary's. They are a lovely group of children, and I have really enjoyed spending time with them this week, getting to know them and hearing about their interests. It has been lovely to see how quickly they are beginning to learn the routines of the school day, find their way around, join in with worship and playtimes, and begin to build those first friendships that matter so much. A first full week is a big milestone, and they have approached it with such enthusiasm.

Sadly, you will also receive a separate letter regarding Mrs Jones, who will be leaving us next week. We will make sure there is time to thank her properly for her contribution to school life and to wish her well. She has been a valued part of the school community, and we know that many children and families will have very fond memories of the care and support she has given during her time with us.

Unmissable events coming up

September

21st – Clubs begin this week. Make sure that you've signed up!

21st – Swimming for Year 5/6

25th – Celebration Assembly, 9.15am, St. Mary's Church

30th – Governor's meeting

October

13th – FOBS AGM 6.15pm in school.

Looking ahead, Mrs Haworth will become our full-time TA in Acorn Class. She already knows the children and the school so well, and I am sure this will help provide lovely continuity for our youngest pupils as they continue to settle in. It is always reassuring for children to have familiar adults around them, particularly at the start of their school journey, and I know Mrs Haworth will continue to support them brilliantly as they grow in confidence.

Many thanks to those of you who came out and supported the village fete last weekend. The school Skittles stall managed to make £54 to purchase some additional resources, and this will quite possibly go towards some PE equipment. In total, the fete raised over £4000 and was really well attended. Events like this are such a good reminder of the strength of the community around the school. Whether people were setting up, running stalls, buying tickets, donating prizes or simply coming along to enjoy the afternoon, every contribution helped. Thank you again to everyone who gave their time and energy; these moments make a real difference to the opportunities we can offer the children.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Smith



OUR VISION

Growing together in curiosity, creativity and community.

**"Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows...
the birds come and perch in its branches."**

Mathew 4: 30-32

OUR VALUES



Friendship

We build strong relationships, show kindness and care, and celebrate difference.



Perseverance

We keep going, even when it's hard, and learn from challenges.



Thankfulness

We notice the good things, show gratitude and appreciate others.



Love

We show compassion, respect and forgiveness in all we do.



Creativity

We imagine, explore and express our ideas in inspiring and original ways.



Hope

We believe in ourselves and others and look forward with confidence.

OUR BEHAVIOUR PRINCIPLES



Ready

We are prepared to learn and give our best.



Respectful

We treat everyone and everything with respect.



Safe

We keep ourselves and others safe.

**This is demonstrated through relentless routines and calm, kind, consistent adult behaviour.
We revisit these rules and their meaning regularly which is effective in supporting staff in reinforcing consistent expectations.**