

2nd September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very fond and warm welcome back to you! It seems as though we were only waving goodbye to the last academic year five minutes ago and already the new one is upon us! I hope that you have all had a fantastic summer break and that you are looking forward to this new academic year as much as I am! Having spent the day today with all the staff, delivering our annual safeguarding training session, they are buzzing with excitement and are fired up and ready to begin giving their new classes high-quality, fun and engaging learning activities as we continue building on our standards of excellence. There are already lots of exciting things on the horizon – the launch of our new and refreshed school website, impending residential trips for year 5 and year 6 and the unveiling of a new outdoor play programme to name just a few.

I would also like to welcome all our new children and families to the school community, whether that be for the very first time, or if you are joining us from another setting. Starting a new school can be a daunting experience for some, but please feel reassured that the staff will support all our new starters with kindness and care, both children and parents alike. If you haven't had the opportunity already, may I suggest you have a quick look at your child's class page on the school website under the 'Children' tab to acquaint yourselves with some of the routines and expectations for the forthcoming year. As I have already mentioned, the website is having a 'facelift' so will look a little different in the coming weeks!

I would also like to welcome some new faces to our team – Mrs Clarke, our new School Business & Facilities Manager, Mrs Sadya, Year 2 Class Teacher, and Mr Kay, our brand new Learning Support Assistant. I know you will all make them feel at home!

We look forward to increasing good patterns of **attendance** this academic year and enhancing the school's already strong and supportive ethos and culture around this. JTMAT considers excellent school attendance as paramount to pupils achieving their full potential and therefore, enhancing lifelong outcomes. It is central not only, to academic attainment but in developing children socially, morally, ethically and in enhancing well-being. It is with this in mind, that we set expectations of excellent attendance for all our pupils. Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing, and wider development.

For some children, attending school every day will be harder than for others. This is why Shobnall Primary & Nursery School is committed to working together with families to solve problems and support your child's school attendance. Therefore, each child enrolled at our school is expected to attend every day, on time so that they can achieve their full potential. We monitor and manage attendance and punctuality across all year groups according to the JTMAT Attendance and Punctuality Policy and statutory guidance. With all the statutory changes being implemented nationally over the summer, I thought it would be useful for you to receive a short summary of these changes as an accompaniment to this letter.

In addition to this, **school uniform** plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging. These factors contribute to students' wellbeing, removing the additional pressures of deciding what to wear and the added stress of meeting the expectations of their peers. Please see our dedicated school website page [here](#), which lists our requirements inclusive of our PE kit, which

can be worn on PE days. PE will commence this week, so if you are unsure which day/s your child is required to come to school in PE kit, please visit their class page on the school website. The children are very keen to ensure that they are as smart as possible and that uniform standards remain high, and our new rewards system will acknowledge this.

Please also note that the school's Breakfast Club will resume from 7.30am tomorrow. Mrs Foster and I will be on hand in the morning on the gate from 8.45am to receive any important messages and guide the children to their new classrooms, where all the staff will be waiting in readiness to greet them and support them with the transition to their new routines.

Finally, it is important to remember and acknowledge that our communication channels are always open, and that all stakeholders agree to send and receive these with kindness. Our weekly newsletter will continue to provide you with all the relevant information you need, and our X (formerly Twitter) page will continue to give you that insight into the exciting things that are happening in school. More urgent messages and reminders will continue to be sent to you via text message, so please make sure your contact details are up to date with the school office.

I very much look forward to working alongside you over the forthcoming year and to welcoming the children back to school tomorrow!

Kindest regards,



David Adams
Headteacher
Shobnall Primary & Nursery School



"Happy children, inspired learners"

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