

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to start our new voyage of discovery 2017-18 together. The children I hope will have been sharing their experiences with you as the term has progressed. Our youngest pupils have made a great start and are well into their new routines. May I take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your child/children working in partnership with us so to ensure they can be the best they can be.

There are a number of matters I wish to draw your attention to.

### **Parent/Carer - Teacher Consultations**

We are looking forward to celebrating your child's/children's start to the academic year 2017-18. A new report will be presented to you as a record of the meeting which will supplement the conversation you will have with the class teacher. This will include recent targets your child has secured as well as those being focused on currently. I look forward to catching up with you all next week.

### **Academy Update**

We hope to hear very shortly whether all of the legal Academy conversion work has been completed - at this point a conversion date will be confirmed. We are opening up the opportunity for the pupils in the new Soke Education Trust to design the trust logo. Each school will bring to the Trust their voted representative designs for the final selection. The logo should represent the trust ambitions best articulated through:

SET - Soke Education Trust - Sustain Empower Transform - **S**ustaining high Achievement - **E**mpowering confident learners – **T**ransforming lives. The selected design will be commercially reproduced and used on all Trust stationary and headers. All designs should be in school by Monday 30th October 2017. This could be a half term holiday project for your child.

### **Curriculum Developments**

During the course of the Teacher training Days we reviewed the wider curriculum offer for our pupils. This has included themed weeks which have been further enhanced. During the course of the year we will have a special focus on: Arts Week/STEM - Science - Technology-Mathematics/ Environment Week/International Week/Well Being week.

The Mathematics curriculum has been further enhanced to align with the Mathematics Mastery approach. This features blocks of learning within the Mathematics curriculum to allow embedding and greater depth learning as compared to moving more quickly on to new areas of learning and then re-visiting. We believe that spending more continuous time on areas of Mathematics will help our pupils become secure as well as provide greater opportunities to take their learning further.

### **Behaviour Management**

We are very proud of our local and wider reputation of being a school where children work hard and enjoy learning together. House Points and Class Rewards will continue to reward good behaviour and attitudes to learning. We do have high expectations for everyone to succeed and where poor behaviour choices lead to disruption of a child's learning we will use our behaviour management strategies including the Yellow/Red/White cards to remind pupils of their responsibilities. Yellow cards are a reminder for a pupil to change their behaviour choices. If this does not happen and repeated poor behaviour choices continue a Red card will be issued resulting in a 10 minute loss of privilege. We are now managing Red cards more immediately as opposed to the end of the week. We have introduced Reflection Time for pupils who are issued with a Red card to spend time with a Senior Teacher to reflect on the events resulting in a Red card being issued. This will take place during lunchtime, Red cards can be earned back and we will be reminding everyone that this is still an option. Repeated Red cards will serve as an indication to escalate and contact with home will be made so we can work through a strategy to positively turn this around. The pupils have shared their views regarding this change through assemblies and wider discussion – their response was overwhelmingly in support of this change as they think it will make more of a difference.

### **Mobile Phones**

It appears that some Y5 and Y6 pupils are bringing mobile phones into school. We have an increasing number of incidents regarding inappropriate use of mobile phones before the school day has started. We are required to have very strict guidelines regarding mobile technology and its use on school premises as part of Keeping Children Safe in Education - KCSIE. We do not permit pupil mobile phone usage and kindly ask that pupils do not bring into school a mobile phone or other device capable of making a call including watch enabled devices. In the event of a pupil having a mobile phone in school it will be removed and secured safely at the school office for collection by the parent/carer.

Yours sincerely,  
Ben Wilding  
Headteacher