



## Autumn Two Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we move through the second half of the autumn term, it is hard to believe how quickly the weeks are passing by. Pupils have continued to settle into their new classes and routines extremely well and are showing real confidence and maturity. The standard of work across school has been impressively high and pupil attitude to learning has been excellent. This is closely linked to our ASPIRE values, which we focus on each week in assembly, and it is wonderful to see these values being lived out in classrooms, on the playground and beyond, sitting at the heart of our school culture.

### Staffing News

We have several important staffing announcements to share with you:

Mrs Dickinson will be beginning her maternity leave after Christmas. We wish her and her family the very best at this exciting time. During her absence, Mrs Wood will be taking on the role of school SENDCo. I know our whole school community will offer her the same warm support and partnership you have given to Mrs Dickinson.

After an incredible 23 years at our school, Mrs Murray will be moving on to an exciting new position in another school. Having joined us as a trainee teacher in 2002 and becoming permanent in 2003, she has given decades of dedicated service to our pupils and families. In particular, her leadership of phonics and reading for pleasure has had a profound impact on countless pupils over the years. We will miss her greatly but wish her every success in her new adventure. Miss Durnin will be joining us in January as our new Year 1 class teacher. I am sure that we will all welcome her warmly and offer her our full support as she settles into our school community.

After 25 years of exceptional service, Mrs Mason will be retiring at Christmas. Beginning as a parent volunteer, then supporting the walking bus and later working as a highly effective teaching assistant, she eventually moved into the school office "just for a few weeks" and the rest is history! Her partnership with both Mrs Hose and, more recently, Miss Hose, has shaped the efficiency and warmth of our school office for many years. Her willingness to volunteer for trips, events, residential and anything else that the school needed, and always with a huge smile on her face, epitomises everything wonderful about the true professional that she is. After giving a quarter of a century of service to our children and families, she now takes some very well-deserved time for herself and her family. We will miss her enormously and wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement. Recruitment for the school office is currently ongoing. I will update parents with further news in due course.

### Uniform Reminders

All our pupils look so smart in their school uniform, particularly since the introduction of ties from Reception in September, and Year 6 wear their special tie with pride! Our uniform identifies us as part of the Great Schools Trust family and wearing the correct uniform fosters pride, unity, and a strong sense of belonging. Thank you in advance for your support in ensuring all children adhere to our uniform expectations as it is vitally important that everyone wears the correct uniform. No trainers or boots are permitted and any children who cannot wear their school shoes for any reason will be required to change into spare school pumps whilst in school. This should be a temporary measure while their school shoes are being replaced. Training shoes are not part of the school uniform and are not permitted. This includes black Velcro trainers with a sports logo. If a child

arrives without a tie, they will be given one to wear and return it back to school at the end of the day. Make up is not permitted.

Full indoor and outdoor PE kit should be brought in every Monday and will be sent home each Friday. An automated text will be sent out if your child is missing their PE kit. Long hair must be tied back on PE days for health and safety reasons; if it is not, pupils will be asked to tie it back. Again, for safety reasons, children are not allowed to wear any jewellery. Any child with pierced ears may only wear plain stud earrings in school, which must be removed for swimming and PE. Any child wearing jewellery will be asked to remove it and collect it at the end of the day.

### **Universal Free Breakfast Club**

Our free Universal Breakfast Club continues to grow in popularity. A reminder that this provision is completely **FREE** for all pupils from Reception to Year 6, opening at 7.45am each morning. It provides a calm, positive start to the day, ensuring pupils are well-fed, settled and ready to learn and we know it is hugely supportive for many families' busy morning routines.

### **Important Parking and Site Safety Reminders**

Can I please remind you that for the safety of all pupils and staff, no pupils or parents should be on the school site before 7.45am unless otherwise agreed by the Principal.

No bikes or scooters should be ridden on the playground or anywhere on the school grounds.

Bikes and scooters can move very quickly and with young children on site, the risk of accidents is high. Please ensure bikes and scooters are walked carefully once you enter the school gate.

Strictly no dogs are allowed on the school site, even if carried. Some children are very anxious around dogs and others may have allergies. Even well-behaved dogs can be unpredictable in a busy, noisy environment and there are hygiene considerations too. For these reasons, and to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all, dogs must not be brought onto the premises at any time.

Please take extra care when parking or dropping off outside school. It is essential that yellow zigzag lines are kept clear at all times, entrance to staff car park, driveways and pavements remain unobstructed and that drivers park considerately to protect the safety of all children. Your co-operation helps us to keep the start and end of the school day safe for every pupil. Thank you for your support in following these important safety rules.

### **MCAS (My Child At School) Parent App**

From January, the school will become cashless. All payments, including trips, clubs and dinner money, must be made via the My Child At School (MCAS) app. Using the school app offers a number of benefits, including secure, quick online payments, instant notifications, having a single place to view important school information and reduced queues and administration in school. I know that a number of parents are already using the app to pay for school lunches and are already seeing the benefits. If you need any support setting up or accessing the app, please do not hesitate to contact the school; we are more than happy to help!

### **Trips, Visits, Events & Key Dates**

As always, our programme of enrichment events is already off to a strong start! The Year 3 residential visit to CHET was a brilliant experience for all, with pupils pushing themselves, showing resilience and embracing outdoor learning. Weekly King's Adventure sessions have been warmly received by pupils, having been introduced by Mr Doherty and now continued by Mr Mansfield, pupils are developing essential life skills, teamwork and character in these sessions. Thank you for engaging so positively in our Meet the Teacher sessions and our Nursery Stay & Play Sessions were wonderfully attended and provided a great opportunity for our families to see early learning in action. Come Dine With Me was a huge success once again, with families enjoying lunch with their children and learning in the classroom.

We are absolutely delighted that, after six years, our Year 1 – 6 Christmas performance will once again be held at the Linacre Mission on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 2.00pm.** The Mission holds a special place in the history of our school, with a long-standing relationship built on shared values, community spirit and generations of families coming together to celebrate important moments in the school year. Returning to such a meaningful venue allows us to reconnect with this rich heritage and offer our pupils an experience rooted in tradition and belonging. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Reverend Darren Garfield for his support in making this possible, and we look forward to continuing our partnership for many years to come.

Other key dates include:

- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Year 6 Come Dine with Me at 10.30am
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – 2-year-old Christmas Stay and Play at 2.00pm
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Year 1 - 6 Christmas performance at Linacre Mission
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Year 1 – 6 Art Exhibition in school at 3.15pm
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Nursery & Reception Christmas Performances at 10.30am & 2.15pm
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December – EYFS & KS1 Christmas Party Day
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Snow White Pantomime at the M&S Auditorium (Year groups to be confirmed)
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – KS2 Christmas Party Day and whole school Christmas lunch
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Nursery and 2-year-olds finish for Autumn Term at normal time
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Reception – Y6 finish for Autumn Term at 2.00pm

#### **A Personal Note**

As I approach the end of my first year of headship, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our incredible pupils and families. Your support, warmth and commitment to our school make it an absolute privilege to serve as your Principal. A parent survey will soon be sent out via text, and I would be very grateful if as many parents as possible could take a few minutes to complete it. Your voice is incredibly important to us and your feedback helps shape the ongoing improvement of our school and directly influences our next steps.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Dineley  
Principal