

27th May 2022

Dear Parent/Carers

I simply cannot believe that we are at the end of Summer 1 and have only one half term left of this academic year. It seems to have gone in a flash yet we have done so much.

This term we have really taken advantage of the fact that COVID restrictions have gone and embraced being back on school trips and having visitors into school. Activities have included; A trip to Paignton Zoo, Climbing at Dyno Climb, Music Workshops with Jason Singh in conjunction with Dartington Trust, visiting artists and a visit to Decoy, with lots planned next term too! It's been so wonderful to see the value this adds to our curriculum and the joy it brings the children. A quote from a child yesterday at Paignton Zoo was *'this is the best day of my life'*. Sharing these experiences with their friends is simply priceless and we are so pleased we have some normal back and are able to do this.

Forest school has been a huge success and Mrs Twelvetrees (genuine name of our Forest school lead!!) has beautifully brought the wonder of the forest and nature to our concrete playground. We have made a commitment to this for next year too as we see the impact that this has on learning and the way that it can bring alive subjects such as science and geography. Next term, Courtenay and Templar Class will also be participating in Forest School every Friday. On Forest School days we ask children to come in in their PE kits, and appropriate coats / footwear / sunhats etc.

Year 6 and Year 2 children have taken part in the statutory SATS tests this half term and have really made us proud. After 2.5 years of disruption and uncertainty they have shown such resilience and given it their all. These tests are a marker for us as a school and do not reflect all of the amazing qualities of our children. Our aim is never to prepare for tests but to ensure children are ready and confident for the next step in their education. Some of you may already know that Mrs Chapling is leaving us as a teaching assistant. She does this with a heavy heart but will focus on bringing up her own lovely brood for a while. She will be in to see the children and say farewell for now today during our Jubilee celebrations.

We recently put out a questionnaire about wrap around care and particularly after school club. This has always been a very tricky issues as it has not always had enough uptake to make it financially viable. I am however pleased to let you know that after support from Mrs Webber and our finance team to put together a business plan the Trust has agreed that this is a need at ASM. The request to recruit two after school club staff have been accepted and adverts will go out this weekend. If any of you as parents are interested in this role please do come and have a chat with me. I know how much of a relief this news will be for many of you. As a working mum I know just how hard juggling childcare can be.



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FLOURISHING FUTURES



Finally, we are very aware that life is a little challenging currently. The cost of living crisis is hitting many families hard. As a school we want to help where we can. Mrs Webber has good links with community groups that can support so please do come and have a chat with us.

Have a wonderful half term and we will see you all on 13th June.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs L Secker

Headteacher