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The Roots To Grow, The Wings To Fly

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Executive Headteacher: Mr P. Shakespeare

Tuesday 8th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families had a wonderful summer break and that you are returning feeling refreshed and ready for the new academic year. It is a great pleasure to welcome all of our children and families back to school. To those who are joining our school community for the first time, a particularly warm welcome – we are so pleased to have you as part of our school family.

The children have made a fantastic start to the new school year. It has been lovely to see them return with such enthusiasm, positivity and a real eagerness to learn. Our classrooms have already been filled with energy, focus and excitement, and we are incredibly proud of how quickly the children have settled back into their routines.

We are pleased to confirm that a new pathway to Pinewood Pre-School is being installed, along with fencing around the Resourced Provision for ASC garden. We were, however, a little frustrated that these works were not completed in time for the start of term, as had originally been promised. We appreciate your patience and understanding while these works are being completed; please accept our apologies for any inconvenience or disruption this may cause.

As we look ahead to the year, we will continue to focus on providing high-quality teaching and learning, whilst developing the values that are central to our federation: respect, curiosity, aspiration, independence and resilience. These values underpin everything we do and help our children to grow both academically and personally. We are also keen to continue developing our partnership with you. We know that when school and home work together in a positive and supportive way, children are given the very best opportunities to succeed. As part of this, we are excited to be establishing a new Parent Forum this year, giving families an additional opportunity to share their views, ideas and suggestions. More information will follow soon – watch this space!

Attendance remains an important priority for us this year. Following the decrease in our overall attendance percentage last year, it is essential that we continue to work together to ensure that children attend school regularly and are able to make the most of every learning opportunity. We were pleased to finish last academic year with attendance close to 96%, which was above the national attendance figure for primary schools; however, we know that there is still room for improvement. The message remains clear: children whose attendance is above 97% achieve significantly higher academic outcomes. Please take some time to visit our Attendance webpage where you will find useful information and guidance – click here.

We have lots to look forward to this year, and we are particularly excited about our upcoming Whole Federation Trip to the Anvil Theatre in Basingstoke on Thursday 10th December to see *Beauty and the Beast*! Please continue to check our newsletters and website regularly for important information and

updates. As always, if you have any questions, queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. A list of key reminders can be found below.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to welcoming you to school events throughout the year and working alongside you to make this a happy, successful and memorable year for every child.
Together, we will ensure that every child has **"The Roots to Grow, The Wings to Fly."**

Warmest regards

P. Shakespeare

Paul Shakespeare
Executive Headteacher

Autumn 2026 REMINDERS

- **Start of the School Day**
- The main school door will be open from **8:30am**; classroom doors will be open from **8:35am**. Registration will be **8:45am**. Your child must be in class by 8:45am for registration.
- Parents/Carers are welcome to walk onto the site to drop your child off at the classroom door from the courtyard. Any quick message to an adult can be passed over; otherwise please go to reception to book an appointment. Parents are not allowed into the classroom/cloakrooms; we are encouraging the children to grow their independence as one of our federation values.
- **End of the School Day**
- The day finishes at **3:15pm**. Parents collect their child from the courtyard; please enter through our pedestrian entrances (the gates will be unlocked around 3:05pm).
- **Reception/School Office**
- The school office will be open from 8:30am – 3:30pm for visitors.
- Any medication for your child must be brought into reception and the appropriate forms completed in order for us to administer it.
- **Reading at home**
  Please ensure you listen to your child read at home at least 5 times each week – little and often is the most effective way! We will monitor the 'Reading Record' books on a Thursday morning.
- **PE Kits, School Bags & Equipment**
- We would like your child to come into school wearing their PE kit on their specified PE days. During the colder months, your child will need to wear navy jogging bottoms and their school jumper.
- On occasions the PE day may need to change. Where possible, we will ensure we notify you at least two days in advance.
- **Breakfast Club**
- This will continue as usual. Please ensure you book through Arbor; there are 16 spaces a day and when full you will be unable to book.
- **After School Club**
- Clubs are available on Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri with Barn. Additional extended care is available until 5:30pm. Please ensure you book directly with Barn at barnabywbaker@gmail.com. Please collect from the external hall door.
- **Clubs**
- Gremlin Dance is available on a Thursday – please contact info@gremlindance.com and iRock runs on a Monday afternoon – please contact info@irockschool.com.
- **Parent helpers**
- Adults wishing to come into school to listen to children read, help in the library, will be warmly welcomed! Please contact the school office should you wish to support us.