



10<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. I hope the first week started well for you all and that your children are beginning to feel settled into their new classes. It's also wonderful to welcome back Mrs Pridmore, Miss El-Tahlawi, Mrs Bull and Mrs Khan this term. For families who are new to the school, we are delighted that you have joined our friendly and caring school community and look forward to getting to know you all. Year groups will be arranging after-school Meet the Teacher sessions over the next couple of weeks – try to attend these if you can.

For me, this new school year brings a new role. I feel immensely privileged and fortunate to be able to continue serving the school community that I have loved being a part of for over 20 years, now as the headteacher. Roger Ascham Primary School's aim remains to encourage children to think for themselves and act in the best interests of us all. I could not ask for a more supportive and dedicated team of colleagues committed to doing just this. I am not alone in beginning a new role this September; Ms Natai is now our deputy headteacher and both Ms Alexander and Mr Sadiq join Mrs Desoer as assistant headteachers. Mr Chelaru, Ms Pallett, Mr Whyte, Mr Towell, Mrs Bull and Ms Petridou also have new responsibilities this year for leading teaching and learning within the school.

### **The school day now starts at 8.45am**

The change to the timings of the school day will take some getting to used to; thank you to everyone for embracing these. Remember: no one will be able to enter the school playground through the gates after 8.45am but we will still allow adults dropping children off to leave after this time! The school day now finishes at 3.15pm for all year groups except the nursery.

### **Uniform**

We insist on children wearing the correct uniform as it reinforces a sense of belonging and equality for all children in the school, freeing everyone from the social pressure of needing to fit in. For example, school shoes should be completely black. Having a school uniform also ensures that expensive items, including jewellery, do not go missing and can continue to be enjoyed at home. If a child does have their ears pierced, studs should be worn. You can check the uniform requirements in more detail on the school website.

All belongings should be labelled with children's names and class. Children are still learning to take responsibility for themselves and their belongings and there will be mistakes! Being able to identify who something belongs to will help us to return property when it occasionally goes missing. If your child does come home with something that is not theirs, please return it to school, whether it is named or not, and we will try and unite the item with its owner.



### **Bikes and Scooters**

It is great that we have so many children travelling to school by scooter or bicycle. As a keen cyclist myself, I cannot stress enough the importance of wearing a helmet. We have dedicated cycle and scooter parking in both the junior and infant playgrounds. If your child brings a scooter or bike to school, please help them to park these carefully and considerately. I recommend that they are locked too. Problems with scooters and bikes going missing are very rare but it can happen. One scooter can look very much like another; a lock will prevent cases of mistaken identity that could result in someone's property going home with the wrong person.

### **The Website**

If you have visited the website since term began, you will have noticed that it has undergone some updates. I hope this will make finding information about the school easier. There are still sections of the new site to finish off which will be completed over the coming weeks. For the time being, year group webpage links will take you to the existing Google Sites pages but we will be moving this information onto the website itself later on this term. Please do check the information on the website regularly.

### **Ofsted**

Mr Hanks' final week as headteacher took a different turn of events than planned when Ofsted arrived to inspect the school in the closing days of last term. As soon as the report from the inspection is finalised, I will share it with you all.

Finally, if there is ever anything that you are unsure about, can I remind and encourage you to come and speak to someone who will be able to help address your queries or concerns. Class teachers are available to speak to at the end of the school day or, if you are unsure of who to contact, the school office is your best port of call.

Best wishes,

Mr Desoer