



8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very happy Friday to you all. It has been a pleasure to have the children back in school this week and we have enjoyed a very happy and settled start to the new school year. The children have been brilliant getting into new routines and setting themselves goals for the year ahead. I walked through the school today with Liz Wagner, our Chair of Governors, and it was a delight to see how settled and happy each class was as they went about their learning.

New Year R: We have enjoyed meeting the children who will be starting in Year R next week. They will be a wonderful part of our school family. Year R will be starting with a week of just mornings to support a smooth transition with Monday - Wednesday finishes just before Lunch and on Thursday and Friday the children have lunch in school and leave at the end of lunchtime. The following week they will do full days finishing at 3:15pm.

Morning Drop Off: In this first half term, Year R parents are welcome to come down to the classroom door with their children each morning, saying goodbye in the Year R outdoor area. Thank you to all parents for a smooth transition to our new gate times of 8:40 - 8:50am. A member of staff will remain at the gate until 8:55am but all children should be in school by 8:50am each morning.

Uniform and PE Kits: The weather is set to be much cooler next week than it has been this week so we ask that all pupils are back in normal school uniform and school shoes rather than PE Kits. PE Kits should be kept in children's lockers ready for PE lessons.

What is Love? In Collective Worship this week we have been exploring what it means to walk in the footsteps of Jesus with love. We have looked at how our Christian Value of Love celebrates how we are all **unique and special** to God, how we are a **school family** who love our neighbours as ourselves and in humility we **put others first**. We'll be learning how to live this out in school life everyday and I would welcome you to use this language at home with your children too. Please take a look at our website for more information:

<https://www.romseyabbeyschool.co.uk/vision>

INSET Day Friday 22nd September: Our next INSET day is coming up on Friday 22nd September which means there will be no school that day. Staff will be working on further refining our curriculum so that all pupils know more and can remember more as enthused experts in every subject.

Harvest Service at Romsey Abbey - Friday 29th September: This is our first service of the year at Romsey Abbey and all parents are very welcome to join us at 2pm for the service. We will be



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collecting for the Romsey Food Bank as part of the service so please see attached for the items that the Foodbank would most appreciate. Any donations should come into school with your child that morning.

Psalm 23 Garden: We are pleased to share that the Bishop of Southampton, the Rt. Rev Debbie Sellin, will be joining us on **Friday 6th October** to formally open our Psalm 23 Prayer and Reflection Garden with the children and those who have been involved in and supported the project. The garden will continue to develop but it is ready to be enjoyed and used as a special place of prayer and reflection. It has and will continue to be a great team effort to create and look after this special space in school so a huge thank you to everybody involved.

Dates for your Diary: Please see the all important dates for your diary which include the upcoming dates for the remaining Meet the Teacher meetings next week. This afternoon it is the turn of Year 6 parents to meet Mrs Sessions at 3:15. School-age Children can be supervised in the Year 5 classroom during the meeting which will last 20-25 minutes approximately. https://docs.google.com/document/d/10-Qagv3rcTOhllGpgLuw5Jpz_roi8-UQP-67qL45jBc/edit

Prayer: I'll finish with a prayer which you are all welcome to join me in praying for our school:
Dear God,

Thank you for our school family. We pray for those children starting in Year R next week and ask that their first week will be a special and happy one and that they quickly settle into life at our school and get to know all the friendly and caring faces around them. We pray for those children who have now moved on to start secondary school, that they too would quickly find their feet and make good friendships in their new schools. Amen

Have a lovely weekend and stay cool.

Mr Mark Harris

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