



Headteacher Weekly Update 20.09.2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely week. A great big well done to Year R for completing their first full week in school; they have been amazing and we are super proud of them. They will likely be exhausted after their great efforts this week.

Curiosity is our focus Habit of Mind for this half term and this filters into every part of our curriculum and school life. In our shared language of High Expectations; Deep Empathy, one question we like to ask the children in lots of different contexts is *"What do you notice?"* There is much to be gained when we take time to really look at a situation or our surroundings or the book we are reading and as we look intently we notice and understand more and more. As a school we teach the children to have **'Open Eyes'** to the world around them, being thankful for the blessings and being aware of those around us. Take time to pose the question, "What do you notice?" throughout the weekend and over the coming week in a range of circumstances and see what you and your child learn from that deeper looking. It is a handy question to ask to encourage your child to notice the impact of their actions on others too.

INSET Day: Next Friday (27th September) is an INSET day. Staff will be completing a range of training with a particular focus on Maths and forensically identifying gaps in learning. Please note **school will not be open that day**.

Year R spaces for September 2025: We have organised a number of dates and times if you have or know of anybody who has children due to start school next September. Applications open in November and close in January 2025. Please call or encourage others to call and book a school tour:
Wednesday 2nd October: 9:30am and 11am
Wednesday 23rd October: 9:30am and 11am
Come and see who we are and all we have to offer.

Year 7 Open Mornings and Applications: Mountbatten School have an open morning on Tuesday next week and I know a number of Year 6 parents have also booked to have tours of Romsey School later that morning or other mornings. We obviously authorise these visits for Y6 pupils but please do complete an absence form so we have a record of who we expect to be out. Applications for Year 7 places are open and close at midnight on 31st October.

Dates for your Diary: Here is the link for our Dates for your Diary. It is a live document so will update as new dates and events are added to the diary: https://docs.google.com/document/d/10-Qagv3rcTOhIGpgLuw5Jpz_roi8-UQP-67qL45jBc/edit

Home/School Agreement: Thank you to everyone who has read and signed our Home/School Agreement for this year. If you have not done so yet, please follow this link and complete as soon as



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possible. The google form gives you an easy way to show us you have read and agreed to this important policy: <https://forms.gle/9qn58oxxfogPGmDa8>
The agreement includes important information around drop off and particularly end of day collection so please read carefully.

Money Coaching Course: CAP (Christians Against Poverty) run an excellent expert money coaching course for free. Money Coaching helps develop budgeting skills, covers topics like credit, spending and savings, and provides access to an acclaimed money management tool to help you manage your money, rather than money managing you. The next course starts on Wednesday 2nd October in the mornings at the Freedom Centre. Please see the attached flyer for details. CAP have also kindly offered to run the course specifically for our school community **here in school in January** so look out for more details later in the term. **If money is a worry for you then this friendly, free and proven support could be invaluable for you and your family.** If you have questions I can put you in touch with the organiser who would be happy to help.

Romsey Clothes Swap: Talking of great community-based support for families, please see the attached details of the Romsey Clothes Swap held at Romsey Baptist Church on the 2nd Saturday of every month 10am to 12noon. These events offer families the opportunity to exchange gently used children's clothes for free.

- Bring along clean quality children's clothes your children have outgrown - but remember, bringing clothes to swap is not compulsory!
 - Swap them for second-hand gems.
 - Even if you come empty-handed, you're welcome to take clothes away that you need for your family.
 - Help reduce waste and save money by participating in our eco-friendly initiative.
- The Baptist church also do tea, coffee and cakes with donations welcome.
The next one is Saturday 12th October.

Parking: Just a reminder that Romsey Abbey kindly let parents use their car park for drop off and pick up each day. They ask we do not park on the drive that leads down to the Parish Office and the vicarage at any times as it blocks essential emergency access.

Late to School: Our school gate is open from **8:40am - 8:50am** each morning. Children must be in school by **8:50am at the latest**. We are finding that a number of children each day are arriving after 8:50am which we have to mark as late. We are keen to work with you if there are particular obstacles to this and create an action plan together to ensure all children are in school on time each day.

Prayer: You are very welcome to join me in praying the following for our school...

Dear God,

Thank you for the many wonderful and beautiful things in the world around us, things that inspire us, encourage us and delight us. Help us to take time to notice those things and be thankful for the blessings around us. Help us to be a blessing and encouragement to those around us.

Amen

Have a wonderful weekend everybody and we'll see you on Monday.

Mr Mark Harris

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"Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus with Love, Trust and Forgiveness"