



Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems incredible that we have come to the end of another academic year already! Terms 5 & 6 have been action packed with leaver's events, special class assemblies, and transition and sports days; luckily, the weather was very kind to us this year so all 4 sports events happened on the planned days! All the children and staff have been working very hard across the school to ensure their good progress continues. I would like to give an extra mention and thank all the Year 2 & 6 children for their tremendous effort and positive attitudes towards their Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs). I am extremely proud of them and the staff involved, for their commitment and dedication.

It is time to say goodbye to our current year 6's. They have been a super group of children and should to be commended for the amazing drive they have had this year to do well...and it has certainly paid off! I sure you will join me in wishing them every success for the future, not only in their new schools, but beyond.

**Staffing 2019-2020** – This year we have very little staff movement, with only one teacher moving on. Mrs Landron has completed her NQT year with us and is now taking time out from teaching to complete her Masters degree for which we wish her all the very best. In addition, we have two TA's from Iwade school who are embarking on a change of career, Mr Wraight and Mrs Brown, both of whom we would like to thank for the excellent contribution they have made to Iwade School and of course wish them also all the very best for their future endeavours.

### **Curriculum design & topics**

We have spent time reflecting on our curriculum in school this year, the topics we teach, feedback from the children and staff and from your parent questionnaire earlier in the year.

We have been trialling a new cross-curricular approach for the last 2 terms; rather than 1.5 hours of topic per week, the topic is the main driver for what the children learn about and their learning in all subjects is linked through this (as far as possible). For example, in year 4 they studied Ancient Egypt; they read about it, mummified a fish (and tomato), built pyramids (whilst appreciating the difficulties and engineering challenges), designed and made trundle carts and then wrote instructions for these. The feedback from the children has been amazing, showing very high levels of engagement and thirst for learning.

The staff have come together to consider their topics for next year and then planned for these. The structure of leading subjects has been changed so that all class facing staff are involved in a subject team. Additionally, all year groups will now take an outside trip once a year, to fit with their topic at a suitable time. This may mean that even within a year group, different classes may have separate trips – this allows us to use the minibuses as much as possible and keep the costs as low as possible. Rather than have a Wow! day to launch a topic, the cross-curricular approach means that learning is exciting throughout the term (who in year 4 will forget mummifying the fish?!) and so the Wow! days will be used less often but the whole approach to the curriculum will be more engaging for children.

We are also reviewing how homework is used at school; a number of parents expressed their concerns and this is being addressed as part of our curriculum design. More information will come out across next year as we move forward with our new approach across the Trust, as well as introducing more information for parents around topics and what the children will be learning. We will also be focussing on building the profile for reading for pleasure and more information will come out to you in term 1 so you know how to support and encourage your child with this important life skill.

### **Parental engagement and PTA**

In response to your parental questionnaires earlier this year, you mentioned about having more events for the children and families, so we have had some excellent volunteers come forward to form a PTA (FOIS & FOBS) for both schools. So far they have put on a Mothers' Day tea and a Fathers' Day breakfast which were extremely well attended. Both schools also had a very successful 'Readathons'. Additionally, Bobbing held a traditional Summer Fair, which was extremely well attended. I understand plans are already afoot for next year with a School Halloween Disco and Christmas Party so keep an eye out for details in the new year. I am sure if anyone has some spare time where you can help out at an event any help would be greatly appreciated. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the PTA members and the volunteers for their time and hard work it is very much appreciated.

There will be a change of role for Mrs Higgins who is currently part of the office team at Iwade. From September she will be the Trust's Family Liaison Officer (FLO). Part of her role will be to form that link between parents and school. For those of you who already know Mrs Higgins I am sure you will agree that this post is well suited to her.

### **Road Safety**

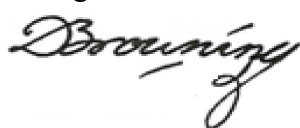
Parents at Iwade have probably notice that we have a new School Crossing Patrol lady Mrs Johnson. We have been requested by KCC to ask you as parents to support her endeavours by setting a good example to your children by using the crossing point and not cross diagonally from the sweeping bend – that way you are in the road for the least possible amount of time. Also in the interests of safety, please can children dismount from scooters/bikes over the crossing as we had some near misses and the last thing anybody would want is an accident that could easily be avoided.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that works at Iwade and Bobbing schools for all their immense hard work they do day in day out to make school a great place for your children to be at. However, this year it is has been more than that, I would also like to thank them for the welcome I received. I really appreciate it has been a big change for everyone after the retirement of the very long serving headteachers and Executive Principal but the staff have embraced moving forward with enthusiasm, for which I can only thank them for.

Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to the start of term on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



Mrs Browning  
Executive Principal