

12th May, 2011

Dear Parents,

We are now back in full swing for the Summer Term. I do hope you all thoroughly enjoyed the Royal Wedding and celebrated the wonderful national event happily with family and friends.

It has been a fantastic year so far; each term has been packed with events and the Summer Term is no different! As always, please check the website as the term progresses for updates and to confirm dates, notably the following:

Full Boarding Weekend, Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May

Forms 111 – V1 and full boarders are invited to camp on Saturday night in the grounds. If you are a weekly boarder, please bring the following items to school after the weekend: a sleeping bag, a sleeping mat if you have one, otherwise the school will provide it, a torch and a warm fleece or jacket. Hardy will confirm the weekend programme nearer the time.

E-Safety Talk, Tuesday 24th May at 6:30pm

Mr Jones, will be offering guidance for parents on Internet awareness. Please do join us for this informative and helpful evening.

Mass at Belmont Abbey, Sunday 12th June, 9:30am

All are most welcome to attend Mass at Belmont Abbey during which the School Choir will be singing. For parents of those in the Choir, Mrs Bull will be in contact to plan the times the children will need to be at the Abbey.

Parents' Weekend, Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June

We do encourage you all to come and enjoy the weekend's programme. It is a good opportunity for parents to enjoy the school and all it has to offer:

Saturday 18th June

- 13:00 Picnics in the Rose Garden (or inside if wet).
Children whose parents cannot attend will be given lunch by the school.
- 14:15 – 15:15 Forms 1 and 11 play, "Honk", in the Assembly Hall.
- 15:30 Tea in the Rose Garden (or inside if wet).
- 16:00 Mothers vs Leavers Rounders Match.
- 18:00 – 21:30 Family Barn Dance – you will have received an invitation to this through your children, please let the office know if you have not. To reserve your tickets (Adults £15, Children £5, Family Ticket £30) please contact Mary Rose Jackson (maryrose.hephill@virgin.net). We are fortunate that Stevie's band "Mind your own Business" are coming along so we can 'Jig, Dance & Jive' the night away, while enjoying Herefordshire's best Hog Roast!

Sunday 19th June

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| 10:00 | Dressage in the Arena Tennis and Swimming available in the grounds |
| 13:00 | Barbecue lunch by the pool (bring your own picnic) |
| 14:30 | Fathers vs Leavers Cricket Match |
| 14:30 | Show Jumping in the Park |
| 17:00 | Tea in the Rose Garden |

Overseas Summer School

We will welcome a group of children for a short summer course, some are V1th formers returning from the Michaelmas Term. They will be integrated as much as possible into St. Richard's daily routine, and placed in Forms with our current pupils, with a separate programme on various days.

Whole School Photograph, Tuesday 21st June at 11:00am

The photographs of the whole school, (including the Pre-Prep and Nursery) will be taken by Gillman & Soame on Tuesday, 21st June from 11.00am. Nursery children, who do not normally attend on Tuesdays, are welcome to come for the photograph. Please ensure that your children are dressed in the Summer Term uniform for this occasion.

First Holy Communion, Saturday 25th June at 12 noon

The school looks forward to celebrating with our three First Communicants on this very special day as they make their First Communion.

Our new Parish Priest, Father Aidan Doyle, will be meeting the children next Saturday, 21st May, when he celebrates Mass for the first time at St. Richard's. Please do join us in welcoming him to our school.

Prize Giving and Speech Day, Saturday 9th July 11:00am

This takes places, as last year, in the Hirons' Hall, followed by lunch in the Rose Garden. Some parents choose to bring picnics. Invitations will be sent out at half-term and I would appreciate you letting the office know if you would like to have school lunch, so that I can advise the kitchen staff accordingly. Lunch is followed by Sports Day, with athletics events for all the Prep School culminating in the Whole School Relay; a raucous affair with house loyalty tested to the limit. Tea is then served in the Rose Garden with the presentation of the Athletics Cups.

Recent Events

Open Morning

It was very good to see many parents last weekend and I hope you enjoyed seeing your child at work. We have received encouraging feedback and I would appreciate further comments as it is hoped we will continue to hold an 'Open Morning for Parents' during future Summer Terms.

Matrons and the Boarding House

Please note that the Matrons and I, would like to remind all parents that access to the dormitories is only allowed with the Matrons' permission. If you wish to check for missing items, please use the stairs to the Matrons' Room and talk to them first. Please do not go to other areas of the boarding house. As always, if you wish to go to the school office, please use the main stairs. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

It has been noted that some parents of flexi-boarders continue to telephone their child on the nights when they are staying at St. Richard's. We would discourage parents from this as it detracts from the children's enjoyment of the experience of flexi-boarding and contact with home can be unsettling. Friday nights, which are the most popular flexi-boarding nights are now 'Quiet Nights' as are Tuesday and Thursday. I would like to clarify our flexi-boarding charges; a detailed register is kept by the Matrons and passed to Jo Howells; parents are only ever charged for nights their children actually board.

Dance Class

We were hoping to start a dance class, during Hobbies on Wednesday at 5:15pm. Unfortunately, this is now not possible. It would be nice to be able to offer a class in the future but for now we are not offering this activity.

Mr Bob Young

Mr Young suffered a stroke at the end of the holidays and has been recuperating in hospital. He is now home and making a good recovery. Mr Coghlan and Mrs Bull have stepped in to fulfil Mr Young's teaching commitments and I shall keep you updated regarding his progress.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you over the next two weeks as we approach half-term, which starts at 1pm on Saturday, 28th May and at which time we will be sending out the Set Marks.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Nathan S. Cheesman