

Dear Parents,

27th May 2011

Your children have excelled themselves with their motivation and enthusiasm over the past action-packed weeks and are, undoubtedly, in need of a good break; I do hope you will encourage them to enjoy some rest. We return to Summer Exams: Forms 1 and 11 begin on the 8th June and the upper school the following week. Alongside these exams, they have sporting fixtures, music exams, the Junior Play and other school activities, culminating in the annual Poetry Competition (in-house). I hope we will have a warm and sunny second half of term in which to enjoy St Richard's, the grounds and all it has to offer.

Following the E-Safety evening led by Mr Jones this week, it is evident that the more information we can share the better. I have enclosed a leaflet from Mr Jones with helpful links for safety guides, 'jargon' tips and also some suggested games' sites that are considered suitable for children. For those that were unable to attend, we will endeavour to hold another evening next academic year, as we consider internet and mobile phone safety such an important subject.

Also enclosed is a music newsletter from Mrs Bull. There are many musical events to enjoy before the end of term and we will notify you of the exam dates as soon as they have come in.

I would like to draw your attention to the following information:

Form and Team Photographs

These will be on view on the website to order (some to follow due to absentees). They will be displayed in the school but orders can only be taken via the website. They are already mounted, 7 x 5, and £3.50 each. Please place your order by Thursday 30th June to ensure they will be ready for collection before the end of term.

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. Limited transport will leave St Richard's promptly at 8.30 am. Otherwise children need to be at Belmont Abbey by 9 am to rehearse before the service. Please could you kindly let Mrs Bull know, as soon as possible, if your child can attend.

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

We do encourage you all to come and enjoy the weekend's programme. We would very much appreciate responses for the Barn Dance as soon as possible; please contact Mary Rose Jackson directly; her details are below.

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 2 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

- 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

Leavers' Programme

The programme for our 6th Form Leavers will commence on Monday 20th June and will combine life-skills training and cultural outings. Full details will be sent to Leavers' parents after Half-Term.

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 with blazers for this occasion.

'BLOOMING GREAT TEA PARTY' in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care on Wednesday 22nd June between 3:15pm and 5:15pm in the Rose Garden

Parents, family and friends are welcome to join us in raising funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Every tea party, however big or small, will help the charity make a real difference to the lives of terminally ill patients and their families in our neighbourhood. £20, for instance, pays for a Marie Curie Nurse for one hour in a patient's home. Please join us for a cup of tea and a delicious cake to make a difference.

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.

Bromyard Gala, Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd July (Gates open at 9:30am)

We are taking a stand at the show this year and it would be lovely to see you during the weekend. It is a wonderful country show and steam rally; admission is free for children (if accompanied by an adult).

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

I have pleasure in enclosing the invitation to Prize Giving and am delighted that Dr David Houston has kindly agreed to present the prizes. He commenced his career as an Army doctor. Early on, he was deployed on an operational tour to Sarajevo and his career continued at a similar pace with further deployments to South Armagh, Belfast, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan and Iraq on several occasions including the Gulf War. Throughout this period, he regularly volunteered for additional duties that trained him in military parachuting, arctic warfare in Norway and jungle survival in Belize. His varied employment included command of a Medical Squadron, rehabilitating injured soldiers at Headley Court and public duties in London that required his medical support at Royal and ceremonial events including Trooping The Colour. His last posting brought him to Hereford as the Regimental Medical Officer for 22nd Special Air Service. He was appointed as a GP Partner at Nunwell Surgery in Bromyard upon the retirement of Dr Kevin Ilsley. David is married to Erin and they have two young children, Harry, who has recently started at St Richards' nursery, and Sam.

Prize Giving is compulsory for all children in Pre-Prep 2 and above. As ever, I would be delighted if parents with children from Pre-Prep 1, Reception and Nursery would come to join the audience. I would be very grateful if you could let the office know as soon as possible how many will be in your party so that we can give the kitchen staff an idea of numbers for catering.

May I remind you that although there will be no flexi-boarding after half-term, this provision is available in case of emergencies.

Lastly, please find enclosed your children's Set Marks.

With my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Nathan S Cheesman
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