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Friday, 27 October 2023

Letter from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week sees us bring the longest half-term of the year to a close, although it has passed very quickly thanks to our exceptional students and staff, as well as the strong support from yourselves and the local community.

New Chair of Governors

Dr Andrew Peters becomes our new Chair of Governors. Dr Peters has an exceptional track record of supporting the local community and I look forward to working closely with him and the rest of the governing body to make our school an even better place for all. I would like to thank Dr Simon Paine for his exceptional service to the school and the local community as Chair of Governors over the last year.

New School Build Update

The school is currently considering three new school build planning options with the Department for Education. We hope that building will start in September 2024, although construction is expected to take at least four years to complete. The building project is likely to be a phased process. As soon as I have definite plans from the Department of Education, I will share them with you.

Uniform Policy Change

September 2024 will see the introduction of a change to our uniform policy. All skirts will need to be pleated skirts from the start of this academic year. This change is to avoid unnecessary confusion surrounding the nature of legacy skirts. I am informing parents and carers now, so families have plenty of advance notice to buy a pleated skirt for their child if necessary. I would also like to remind families that all students can wear trousers as long as they are of a formal cut, and not of an informal cut such as cigarette trousers, cropped trousers or leggings.

The Importance of Exceptional Manners

This last half-term has seen us focus on the use and understanding of exceptional manners. At Toot Hill, we believe great manners are central to showing respect for each other. We teach the importance of great manners, and we model them at every opportunity. I am glad to report that such a focus has seen marked improvements in the warm and welcoming nature of our school, crucial to making every student feel a strong sense of belonging at our school.

Rail Safety

It has come to my attention that a number of unidentified children have been playing on the train tracks at Bingham train station. I am extremely concerned about the safety of these children, and we will be educating our students about the importance of rail safety in school. We liaise with the police and East Midland Railways to ensure students are safe and educated appropriately. I would appreciate your support in reiterating this message at home.

Email

Undoubtedly, the volume of email traffic both in and out of the school has markedly increased over the last five years. Although all staff endeavor to reply to emails from parents and carers as soon as possible, please allow 48 hours for a reply. Please note that staff are not expected to reply to emails after 6 pm on workdays, or during weekends or school holidays. In addition, the general first point of contact in the school should be your child's tutor.

Lunch in the Canteen

We have seen an increase in the number of students without money on their SCOPAY accounts used to buy lunch in the canteen. This considerably slows down the speed of service in the canteen, and also presents an uncomfortable situation for some students. We would appreciate your support in ensuring that accounts are topped up regularly.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a fantastic half-term break together.

Yours sincerely,



Dr C Eardley
Head Teacher