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Principal: Mr Paul Higgins

'Let all that you do be done in Love'

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Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We look forward to welcoming you all back tomorrow for the start of what will be an incredible year at St John Fisher and hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer, even if it has been very wet.

Hopefully you have all seen our new school website, banners and photos, which should be clear, easy to access and give everyone a glimpse of all the great things happening at school.

I cannot emphasise enough how important attendance is for us at St John Fisher, please do whatever you can to bring your child in to school every day, and let us know what the barriers are if you are struggling. Over the summer we have had lots of work going on in the school improving the building, and this will continue in holiday periods throughout the year.

I have been working over the summer in ensuring a smooth start to the term, and have been building links with outside organisations such as Radley and Mansfield College, who are both going to send in older students this year to help support our children and offer enrichment opportunities and have managed to arrange a 'Pop-up Pool' for later in the year which should avoid the issues of Blackbird Leys pool and allow us to teach swimming as an intensive course.

It also shouldn't be long until I can share our new OFSTED report, the final version should be with me in the next few weeks.

But as with every new year we have a few logistical changes

**School Timings:**

Nursery will start as usual at 08:30, with 15:00 pick up for our all day and afternoon children, I know that our EYFS team have spoken to our new starters about individual timings.

Reception – Year 6 will all run from 08:45 to 15:15: please can you pick up your youngest child first.

**Pick Up Changes**

At the end of the day, Nursery will be brought round to the KS2 gate and dismissed from there, the internal school gates will not open until 15:10, this is to ensure classes can teach without distraction for as long as possible.

KS1 – Parents are to wait in the car park by the gate where they drop off their children, and not to congregate by the picnic tables: this is for health and safety reasons due to the skip.

KS2 parents may enter the playground from 3.10.

### **Breakfast and Afterschool clubs**

A separate letter will explain the process, but they must be paid for in advance, using the online payment tool, on the day 'drop-in' will be available but at a higher rate. This is to ensure they are adequately staffed each day.

After school clubs will start soon, but as Mr Broadhurst and Julianna have both left the school it may take slightly longer than usual, we will let you know as soon as they are ready to go.

If the price is prohibitive, please arrange a meeting with me.

### **Snacks, drinks and lunches**

We are trying to move towards a much healthier school due to the extreme benefits for our children of eating and living healthily. It is very hard to teach about healthy teeth and bodies and not to practice what we preach.

Moving forward, pupils will only be allowed fruit as a snack at breaktimes. This does not include 'fruit winders' or 'breakfast bars' – they are not healthy snacks.

Any other food will be binned.

If your child is bringing a drink to school, it must be water, not flavoured fizzy water, just still water.

KS1 children should all receive a free school meal, but in KS2 lunch boxes will not be restricted from anything other than nuts, sweets, fizzy drinks and excessive portions of unhealthy food (i.e. extremely large crisp bags) for the time being.

Please come and talk to me about any issues you have, we will all do our best to help

Yours Sincerely

Paul Higgins

Headteacher