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TO PARENTS OF CHILDREN FROM NURSERY TO YEAR 6

Dear Parents

So much has happened this half of term that I find myself writing a half term letter, in addition to this week's Junior Times.

#### SCHOOL INSPECTION

As you know the Junior School was inspected recently by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. Whilst they were with us, the inspectors scrutinised our policies and the children's work, observed lessons, and interviewed staff and children. Informed by this and by the parents' and pupils' surveys, they checked our compliance of every aspect of the school's provision - from curriculum and teaching to behaviour, bullying and safeguarding, from the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils to health and safety matters and safe staff recruitment - with the Independent Schools Standards and the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Thank you very much to all of you who took part in the parents' survey.

I am very pleased to announce that **the school was found to be compliant** with all the school and Early Years regulations. This was a compliance inspection, and so the inspectors make no judgement of quality, but only pronounce us to be 'compliant' or 'non-compliant' in each area. Therefore, to be found compliant in all areas is the best result which any school can achieve in this sort of inspection. You can read the full report via a link on this page: <https://www.herefordcs.com/inspection-reports>. For your convenience, I am also attaching the report to this email. Please be aware that much of the wording is entirely generic.

#### STAFFING

Looking ahead to next year, I write with an update for you on staffing.

Parents of children in Year 1 will know that **Mrs Copley-May** has decided to retire at half term of this term. That said, she is going to continue to teach Music and Singing in the Pre-Prep until the end of this academic year. From next week, Year 1 will be taught by Miss Deakins and Mrs Williams, who returns from maternity leave.

After 35 years in the classroom, including 15 here at HCJS, **Mrs Liz Lord**, our Head of Pre-Prep, has decided to take early retirement at the end of this academic year. After 14 years in our Nursery, **Mrs Windows** will be moving out of our Nursery in July, and will teach in the Pre-Prep next year. Over the next few weeks, we will be confirming staffing arrangements for September. I will be in touch with you as soon as arrangements are confirmed.

#### NEW GOVERNOR

**Mrs Jacqui Deval-Reed** joined the school's governing body this term. As Headmistress of Bromsgrove Prep and Pre-Prep School, she has a wealth of relevant expertise and experience to offer our school.

#### COMMUNICATION

We sent out our drafted **Welcome Letters** to parents of children in Years 1-6 recently. Thank you to those of you who replied with feedback and ideas of what else we might include. In the future, we will be sending out these letters at the beginning of each academic year. Parents of children in Reception and the Nursery will have received the Nursery or Reception handbook. Over the next few months we will be reviewing these too.

As you will know, we published **direct email addresses** for staff at the beginning of this term. I hope these are proving useful. A polite reminder that, whilst you might receive a reply more promptly, it is our policy that teaching staff should reply to emails within 2 working days. If you need to contact the school urgently, please continue to do so via the School Office between 8.30am and 4.15pm.

As I hope you will be aware, the Junior School now has its own **Hereford Cathedral Junior School Facebook page**. Please 'like' the page to keep up to date with news, photos, and PTA events <https://www.facebook.com/herefordcathedraljuniorschool/>.

Also in recent weeks, Mr Smith and I have gone public with our **Heads' Blogs**. You can read what we have to say, and contribute too, at <https://www.herefordcs.com/blog>. Thus far, I have published articles on the value of praising process and effort (rather than attainment), internet safety and embedding kindness.

I do hope that you have enjoyed watching and supporting your children throughout the first half of the term. We try to include as much as we can in the weekly Junior Times, which I hope that you find informative. This has been an exceptionally busy half of term, and the children have given their all. Certainly, it is time for a restful half term break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 26th February refreshed and ready for all that the second half of term offers.

Yours sincerely

