



Headteacher: Mr M Carter-Tufnell

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Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to a new school year!

I, and Mrs Levett, look forward to meeting you all and getting to know you and your children. Please do come and chat with us when we are outside school at the beginning and end of the school day – we will be there as much as we possibly can. This leads me into sharing a little about how leadership arrangements will work over the coming term.

Mrs Levett and I are very excited to be joining the school. We will both spend as much time here as possible, balancing this with our responsibilities at St Osyth Church of England Primary School. I will be on site more than Mrs Levett because she has a teaching commitment, every morning, at St Osyth. Our aim is to build on the strengths that the school already has whilst improving all other areas. When we were asked to consider joining the school we visited it and met some of your children – it is your children that stood out to us as the best part of the school. They are delightful and ready to learn well.

Last term, and during the summer break, we have spent a lot of time preparing for this school year. This has included:

- Finding out as much as possible about the school, for example, by talking and listening to staff, looking at children's books, looking at school records and communicating with some parents.
- Training staff about the approach to reading, that we will be taking.
- Training staff about the approach to writing, that we will be taking.
- Training staff about how to provide children with additional support programmes. These support programmes are often called interventions.
- Reorganising all the reading books for Reception and Years 1 and 2 so that each week they will have a phonic focused book, a reading for meaning/sight word focused book and another book which aim to ensure children enjoy reading a range of texts. Children will start bringing these books home in a couple of weeks – after we have assessed which books are the best for each child to begin with.
- Sorting, tidying and reorganising a huge amount of resources. Not only does this mean that a 12-yard skip of rubbish was removed but it also means that resources are better organised and easier to access.
- Rearranging our computing suite so that it is better for the children to use.
- Producing timetables and rotas so that there is an improved structure to support children with their learning and at break and dinner times.
- Starting to rewrite the entire curriculum for the school so that it gives children a broader, richer and more ambitious education than they have had.

We appreciate the time that colleagues and parents have given us in order that the above be achieved.

I now turn to some key information for this term. Today, all children have had the opportunity to meet the staff they will be working with. Over the next couple of weeks we will help children settle back into school and we will be assessing their reading, writing and mathematics. Once these assessments have been analysed then we will use this information to inform our teaching. We will also use it to plan any additional support, or interventions, that children may need. Such additional support may take place in the classroom or in another room, for example the library. They may involve children working with staff in small groups, pairs or one to one. The aim of additional support is to enable children, to make accelerated progress. It is purely positive provision by the school and will usually take place outside of class English and maths lessons. The approach we are taking to this is proven to have very beneficial outcomes for children – in regard to learning but also in other ways such as building confidence.

Another way that children will be supported to make good progress is through the way we organise staffing and the school day. Children in Mrs Manning and Mrs Stanley's classes will be taught phonics, in small groups, at the same time each morning. Children in years 5 and 6 will be taught English and mathematics in their own year groups, each morning. Year 6 will be taught English and mathematics by Mrs Stringer and Year 5 will be taught English and mathematics by Miss Fuggle. These two arrangements are examples of how improving the schools' organisation will help improve the learning that children do.

Later this month, we will be holding a day of interviews for our Deputy Headteacher post. We had a strong field of candidates to short list from. We are determined to appoint the right person for your children and for the school. To this end, the interview process will be rigorous. At this point we expect whoever is the successful candidate to start in January but it is not impossible that they will be able to start before then. As soon as an appointment has been made, we will share this with you.

With all the above, and everything else that is planned for this term, we want children to learn well and to be safe and happy in school. This can only be achieved through school, children and parents working in partnership. Mrs Levett, I and the whole staff team look forward to working in partnership with you.

Best Regards,

Mr M Carter-Tufnell
(Headteacher)