



Every Child, Every Day, Every Possibility

19th September 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I would like to wish you a warm welcome to the 2018/19 academic year. I hope you all had a magnificent summer break. The children have all come back refreshed and raring to go. They seem excited to be back and are settling well into their new classes. A huge well done to those parents dropping their children off for the first time – don't worry it does get easier. As for the more seasoned members of our parental body, welcome back; it has been lovely catching up with you all first thing in the morning.

Thank you all for your immediate support with our drop off and pick up routines. I don't want to tempt fate but I cannot think of a smoother start to an academic year. It really does help when everyone respects and follows our rules as it makes life easier for everyone and ensures pupils remain safe. I have been particular impressed that people have not been parking on the Twin Sails roundabout drop off zone. Please remember if you are ever concerned or witness something in either school that might put people at risk always let us know so we can deal with it immediately.

I am aware that some parents have been frustrated with some of the communication from the federation. Please let me reassure you that information to you is always intended to inform and help but we do realise that it can have the opposite effect if it comes to you last minute or as you are heading out of the front door! We have listened and I will be creating a communication plan for the federation which will hopefully provide the clarity and consistency that effective conversation between the home and school should always have. Please remember that if you have a concern about any aspect of our educational delivery feel free to contact the school offices by phone, email or letter to ensure your concerns can be picked up by a member of staff.

The schools will soon start inviting you to come in and visit. These visits might be information workshops, classroom meet the teachers or individual consultations. Please make the most of these opportunities. Throughout this academic year the teams will be engaging with you through projects and curriculum sharing. We are thrilled when you get involved and the pupils always love an opportunity to show you what they are doing in school. I will be seeking your views about our schools this term and will be sending out a questionnaire so I can work with the Heads of School to evaluate our effectiveness.

This year we will be championing reading. I am sure you are aware that there are increasing concerns about the amount of time children are engaging with tablets/computers and the decreasing time families spend together just talking. Increasingly concerning is the lack of relevance that books or reading for pleasure is having in our lives. Unapologetically we are going to challenge that perception this year and we will be promoting a love of reading. I know sometimes it is not easy in our busy lives to find the time to share a book but this is such a crucial skill for children to acquire, and often how effective a person's literacy skills are will have a huge determination on their life chances and opportunities.

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Harbour View Federation is proud to be part of the Hillary Partnership and the Hamwic Education Trust



We will also be sharing our Core Values that we will be using to underpin our Every Child, Every Day, Every Possibility ethos and how they will support learning and behaviour across the federation. These five values will be used at all times and will provide the framework for school life. We will build these qualities in all that we do – more to follow soon.

Attendance will also be a focus for the federation this year. Last year school attendance amongst our pupil bodies dropped below our historical benchmarks. We are concerned that children are missing substantial amounts of time from the school timetable which can create significant gaps in their learning. Please can I remind you that any absence must be reported to the schools and again, be aware the Heads of School cannot give permission for holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances. We will shortly be reviewing and updating our Attendance Policy and Procedures and will share these with you once they have been approved by Governors.

The eagle eyed members of our parental body may have noticed that Mr Lumber sometimes might not be around on a Monday or a Tuesday. Mr Lumber has been seconded to support a Southampton School that currently is without their Headteacher. He is leading the team there and sharing his expertise with another school in our Hamwic family. On the days that he is out I am enjoying back filling his duties and covering with Mrs Amabile. We have never been busier but it has been a real pleasure having the opportunity to increase my involvement with the day to day management of the children.

I still think I have the best job in the world and feel truly privileged to lead such a dynamic learning community. I know this year will fly by and I look forward to sharing more success as the months pass.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Hewitt
Executive Headteacher