



# HEADTEACHER'S BULLETIN

## June 2023 Edition

### Dear Parents/Carers,

As we move quickly through Term 6, it's a pleasure to see the children enjoying the sunshine and our extensive grounds. We have already hosted sports events for Pashley Down Infants School and a Sports Festival, where we were joined by many local primary schools.

Earlier this month we held the inaugural 'Ocklynge World Cup' for our Year 6 learners, successfully won by Team Uruguay and enjoyed by the children across all the year groups. We are very much looking forward to our own **Sports Day on 6<sup>th</sup> July** and hope to see you all there on the day, ready to cheer on the children.

### Staff Announcements

I am very pleased to let you know that from September, both Mrs Linzey and Mrs Bode have been appointed as Deputy Headteachers here at Ocklynge. Mrs Linzey will lead on Data and Assessment, with Mrs Bode leading on Behaviour and Attitudes.

I am delighted by their appointments and look forward to working closely with them in the coming months and years, as we continue to work together and move our school forward.

### Curriculum / Changes from September

The last few months have seen much improvement to our school curriculum. In the new academic year from September and every following term thereafter, you will receive a newsletter outlining all the 'enquiry questions' that your child will answer throughout their learning topics.

Typical enquiry questions to answer may be: *'Why don't I fall off the bottom of the world?'*, *'What is evolution?'*, *'Can matter change?'* or, *'How was crime punished in Britain across the centuries?'*

Our focus is to help your children understand how Britain came to be as it is today, and to begin to develop and build upon a love of the scientific and technological society we live in. We aim to educate them about the environment, renewable energy and care for all groups within our society. We will also learn about how Eastbourne itself has evolved so that the children have an understanding about the history of where they live and their immediate community; something we, as a Trust, are hugely proud of and continue to embed within our school communities.

In the next week or so the new curriculum roadmaps will be uploaded onto our website for you to see. Improvements to content and navigation of our school website will begin in the new academic year, and I will keep you informed as changes are implemented.



### Curriculum / Changes from September continued...

We are carefully planning school trips and events around these topics ready for the next academic year, so there should be no surprises or last-minute requests for money - or costumes! Your support in these areas continues to be greatly appreciated.

Further, in the **next couple of weeks** you will receive our new style 'end of year report' for your child. The report contains written information from teachers on your child's progress and will be very different to the previous reports issued at Ocklynge.

**By the end of this month**, you will be notified who your child(ren)'s next class teacher/s will be. We are excited to share this with you and are sure that you too are looking forward to hearing who will lead your children forward into the new academic year.

**Class teachers from September** will be holding a 'welcome afternoon' on **11<sup>th</sup> July** (for our new year 6s), **12<sup>th</sup> July** (for the new year 4s) and, finally, **13<sup>th</sup> July** (for the new year 5s), to give you all the opportunity to know where the new classrooms will be and to put faces to names. Our staff are all very much looking forward to meeting you. **Each event will be held between 3.40pm until 4.10pm.**

### Also...

We have been very lucky to host eight visiting Swiss teachers at school this month. The teachers have spent time in lessons in all year groups, observing and learning how we teach and generally enjoying how the biggest junior school in Europe (that's us!) enjoy daily Ocklynge life – both our learners and staff alike.

Our visiting teachers have experienced Forest School, music lessons, visited our Trust secondary school (Ratton Academy Trust) to make use of their extensive facilities with our Year 5 children who enjoyed taking part in a cookery workshop, taken part in our own PE lessons and visited our nurture classes and group sessions.

Needless to say, our guests have had a very busy and thorough visit, which they have enjoyed immensely. The teachers even had the opportunity to interview me, as Headteacher, asking lots of questions about what the job entails – I was sure not to put them off! In all seriousness, it has been a pleasure to host our colleagues and they have been highly complimentary about our school.

A number of parents have enquired about the purchase of uniform from our current suppliers. Specifically, they have queried why the new logo does not appear on our school jumpers and whether this will change in the near future.

Currently, the reason they do not appear and are not available is due to the fact that our suppliers make the uniforms in bulk numbers. Until the existing stock is all purchased, our suppliers will not start producing the new logo on the jumpers. We will, of course, keep you updated should this change and



They become available for purchase. Please do not worry, the old logo is still 'legal tender' at Ocklynge Junior School.

### And finally...

Just a couple of reminders please, our school remains a **NUT FREE school**. This is hugely important given we have both staff and learners with severe allergies. Kindly ensure that no food containing nuts is brought onto the premises, do check the ingredients carefully. Your continued support is much appreciated.

Further, we will be holding a '**Lost Property Display**' tomorrow, **29<sup>th</sup> and Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> June**. Do check the items – there are lots! Please feel free to take any that remain on the last day. Anything left after that will either be used for spares (jumpers etc) or, taken to charity.

Finally, I wish to extend my thanks to you all for your kind messages regarding Mr Gietzen's recent passing. These will be collated and, at some point, shared with Mrs Gietzen who I know will read them with grateful thanks, knowing that many of you have taken time to write such poignant and kind messages. Mr Gietzen's funeral is yet to be confirmed across the school but we will of course keep you informed and how this may impact schooling that day. In the meantime, Mrs Gietzen and Lizzy, in Year 6, remain well looked after and supported by the wider team and children here at Ocklynge. Thank you.

I look forward to ending this academic year with you all over the coming few weeks, my time with you all has been most enjoyable and there is a real sense of consistent calm and positivity across the school. The team and I are grateful to you all for embracing changes and continuing to support your school. Our current Year 6's and leavers of 2023 still have much to look forward to over the coming weeks, I hope they all have a fantastic time as they end their journey with us and begin to look forward to their next educational chapter. Transition work has been hugely successful, and I have no doubt that they are all in very good hands moving forward!

Enjoy the rest of the term. As ever, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me on the gates (morning or afternoon!), I will be pleased to speak to you.

**Mr Reilly**  
**Headteacher**