

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the beginning of our first week here draws to an end, I am writing to belatedly warmly welcome you all to the start of the new academic year and offer a special welcome to our new families! I would like to apologise that this letter is being sent after our term has started. As you may be aware, I arrived on the island just a week ago and so it has been a very busy few days indeed! Please be reassured that, moving forward, I am very keen to be pro-active in communicating what is happening here at school, and around our community and will ensure that newsletters are sent out before the start of the new term.

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer with your children. We have really enjoyed welcoming them into school and have been so impressed by their positivity and enthusiasm. It has been a great start to the term – the children are already working extremely hard and have delighted me with their smiles and giggles over the last few days.

I know the start of term can be quite daunting (particularly for parents). Members of the school's Senior Leadership Team will, as always, be outside each morning to meet the children and will be happy to speak to any parent or carer should you have any questions or concerns. I would also welcome any suggestions that you may be able to offer us to help us to further improve our work as a school. Please don't hesitate to come and talk to us at anytime!

**Packed Lunches** – Please can I remind our school community that all food on our premises must be nut free to protect individuals within our community who suffer from severe nut allergies. We therefore politely request that everyone observes a nut-free policy and therefore do not include nuts, or any traces of nuts, in children's packed lunches.



I would also like to request that packed lunches are brought into school at the start of the day with children. We have a small number of families delivering lunches part way through the day. This impacts on children's learning as we have to deploy staff to deliver food rather than working with children. Thank you for your support with this.

**Extended Day Care and Enrichment** – The Treetops Team offer Extended Day Care for pupils in our Foundation Stage. If you would like further information regarding this, please email [Treetops.nursery@modschools.org](mailto:Treetops.nursery@modschools.org). Our school clubs at the end of the day will resume shortly and we will contact parents with further details of the clubs offered in the coming weeks of the new term.

**The School Run** – I have been fortunate enough to have been able to welcome and say goodbye to our children over the last three days, spending time at both entrances. The children have arrived so sensibly and are a real credit to you all.

A significant number of our pupils walk to school and so it seems sensible to ask parents to remind children of the importance of crossing the road using the many crossings around our school. Further to this, for children cycling to school, please can we ensure that they are not wearing their school cap when wearing their cycle helmet? I ask this because cycling helmets are designed to fit snugly against the head and are less snug when a cap is worn at the same time, making the protection offered less effective.

**Reading** – A huge thank you all for your evident support of your child's reading throughout the holidays. Talking on the playground, I have been delighted to listen to children sharing details of the many books that they have read (and evidently enjoyed). They clearly value the time and support that they receive with their reading! Sharing books and other texts, even for a very short time, will benefit every child. Daily reading supports decoding letters, understanding words, putting together sentences and making meaning of what they are reading. Similarly, when an adult reads to a child, we transport them, via our voices, to a different world and expose them to new words in a way that makes it easier for them to process.

As a community, we are fortunate to have a fantastic range of books here at school and a super library within the Chit Chat Community Centre to ensure that children can access a wide range of books.



Please don't hesitate to contact us for any support with reading with your child – we would be happy to help!

### Upcoming Events Within our School:

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023: Open Afternoon (12.50 until 13.50 hrs)** – We would like to offer all parents of children in our FS2 to Year 6 Classes the opportunity to visit their child or children’s classroom and share learning

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September: BJSI Indoor Athletics Tournament** – Information about this event will be sent to parents of children participating

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – Dashain Festival Picnic** – We will be celebrating the festival of Dashain (a little early as a result of our half term) with our community by holding a picnic on our school field, more details to follow.

**Week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023: Parents Evenings** – A letter will be sent to all parents in October with information about booking a convenient appointment time.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November: Remembrance Service** – Again, I will send further information about arrangements for this service closer to the time, but please reserve the date!

### Key Dates within our Community for information:

**13<sup>th</sup> September** – Run for Life PCMF Charity fun run starting on the Hornbill School field

**16<sup>th</sup> September: TEEJ** – this festival celebrates the longevity of relationships.

During October, the **Dashain Festival** is celebrated:

**15<sup>th</sup> October:** Ghatasthapana

**21<sup>st</sup> October:** Phulpati

**22<sup>nd</sup> October:** Kalratri

**23<sup>rd</sup> October:** Mahanawami

**24<sup>th</sup> October:** Tika

November is when the Tihar Festival will be held, which celebrates the relationship between brothers and sisters – a very exciting time!

**12<sup>th</sup> November:** Laxmi Puja

**14<sup>th</sup> November:** Gobardhan Puja

**15<sup>th</sup> November:** Bhai Tika

With warm regards,

Mrs C. Neal Headteacher