



Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with great anticipation that I write this newsletter at the start of the first term of the new school year, to welcome you and your families to Hornbill School!

I am really looking forward to the year ahead and know that it will be filled with your child or children's achievements and successes.

Our **first day of term** will soon be here – **Wednesday 28th August**. It is always a very special time in school, with our new pupils arriving full of excitement and our existing pupils returning ready to take up responsibility for modelling the Hornbill way to our new friends, firmly focussed on what they need to do to achieve their various goals. It would be appropriate at this point to congratulate all our pupils who achieved such great results at the end of last term – our end of KS2 data was again, significantly above the national picture and we are incredibly proud of every child's achievements and hard work. I feel extremely proud and am sure that you will join me in sharing a huge well done to all the pupils, their fabulous staff and of course a huge thanks to our families for the support that you each provide for your children.

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 at the school gates 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 any time!

Coffee Morning with SLT – Friday 30th August at 07.45 hrs

We would like to invite parents to join us for a coffee and conversation with our Senior Leadership Team to help us to understand how the return or start of school has been for you as a family - what has worked and what we can develop and improve upon. If you would like to join us to chat about your experience, you are warmly invited to join us at 07.45 hrs (to fit around the school drop off. We are really keen to learn and improve so would warmly welcome any feedback.

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 politely request that everyone observes a nut-free policy and therefore do not include nuts, or any traces of nuts (including food items such as chocolate hazelnut spread) in children's packed lunches. Within each classroom, cold packed lunches are stored within a fridge, and thermos lunch boxes can be used to keep any food hot for your child. Please talk to your child, or to the teacher, if you are sending hot food in so we can ensure that your child does not place it into the fridge!

All packed lunches should arrive at school with your child at the start of the school day. 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@modschoools.org Our school clubs at the start or 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 – With the new school year fast approaching, it would be a good time to again remind children of the importance of crossing the road safely and your expectations (such as stop, look and listen) around this to keep them safe.

The School Run – Cont.

Further to this, for children cycling to school, please can I request that parents ensure that cycle helmets are worn and fit securely. These need to be worn without items such as school caps to be safe. Cycle 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. Cycling and scooting to school is a great way for children living in the local area to travel to and from school. It is our policy that anyone using this mode of transport (including younger siblings) dismount from their bike or scooter on arrival at our school gates and then push it into (and out of) school. This is because the school paths are often very congested and we also have quite a number of blind corners, which make it difficult to know if the pathway is clear. We would be very appreciative if parents could support us with this to help make arriving and leaving our school as safe as possible! We ask that children follow this rule, even if the paths are quiet, to prevent any confusion.

School Term Dates – Academic Year 2024/25

First Term 2024

INSET Days (School closure)	Monday 26th & Tuesday, 27th August 2024
First Day of Term 1	Wednesday, 28th August 2024
INSET Day (School closure)	Friday, 11th October 2024
Mid Term Break	Monday 21st– Friday, 25th October 2024
Last Day of Term 1	Friday, 13th December 2024

Second Term 2025

First Day of Term 2	Monday, 6th January 2025
INSET Days (School closure)	Friday, 14th & Monday, 17th February 2025
Last Day of Term 2	Friday, 21st March 2025

Third Term 2025

First Day of Term 3	Monday, 7th April 2025
Mid Term Break	Monday, 26th – Friday, 30th May 2025
Last Day of Term 3	Friday, 11th July 2025

I hope that you and your family continue to enjoy the end of your holiday. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

With warm regards,



Mrs C. Neal, Headteacher

