

Monthly Update - September 2017

Dear Parents,

The term has started well on so many different fronts. It has been good to welcome our new reception children who have settled extremely well. I don't think I can remember a year when the children left their parents with so little fuss. Our other new children have adjusted well to Ditchheat and it looks as if they have always been here.

A bigger change for the school has been the arrival of our two new teachers, Miss Boyce to Cherry Class and Miss Alvis to Maple Class. Both teachers have worked hard over the summer to set up their classrooms and have been quick to establish good routines and the values that allow good learning to take place.

Both new teachers have attended training this month, with both receiving 'Read Write Inc'. training in Bristol.

As many of you will know from parents' evenings and our parents' meetings we have made many changes at the start of this new academic year. I am delighted to let you know that all the teachers have worked together and put the extra hours in to ensure everything is on track. All children have completed their reading assessment. All classes are now completing their daily mental maths activities and appear to be improving in their knowledge and speed.

I am now spending most Tuesday mornings visiting classrooms and this has enabled me to evaluate many of the changes we have made. I have used this time to work with small groups of children, talk to children, monitor books, and discuss teaching strategies with staff.

I have been pleased to show a number of new parents around the school almost all of which are considering Ditchheat for next September's reception intake. It has been exciting to show them the new 'Open Classroom' which is being well used throughout the day.

Other successful events of the month include the year 6 completing their 'Bikeability' course; a Macmillan coffee morning, and a football tournament.

Thank you for your support throughout this first month of the year.

Kind regards,

Richard