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Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents & Carers

We have now completed our first half term of the year, it has been an incredibly busy one, but I am taking a moment to pause and let you know some of the highlights since term started in September.

It has been wonderful to see how well our students have settled back into the rhythms and routines of school life. We know that the start of a new academic year can bring changes and challenges as well as new opportunities, and we have been incredibly impressed by the way our young people have embraced these, adapted to new routines and engaged so positively in school life. We are very proud of them all!

Celebrating Black History Month

One of the highlights of this half term has been our Black History Month celebrations, with a fantastic range of activities taking place across both sites. These have included a cross-site Black History Month Bingo, a Bake-Off, a wonderful puppetry performance and, to round off the celebrations, a Black History Month Karaoke Party on each site! It has been lovely to see students coming together, learning, celebrating diversity and, most importantly living out our school value of fun. A huge thank you to everyone involved in making these events such a success.

Leading Parent Partnership Award

I am delighted to share that we have successfully achieved reaccreditation of our Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA). This is a fantastic recognition of our continued commitment to working closely with parents and carers, ensuring that families feel welcomed, listened to and involved in school life. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this achievement. Our partnership with families is something we value enormously and will continue to build upon.

Exciting News About Kiki

We are also very pleased to announce that Kiki, our school dog, has successfully completed and passed her Dog Mentor training! After half term, we will begin planning small-group sessions and activities for students to enjoy with Kiki. These may include reading with her, teaching her tricks, taking her for supervised walks and other activities to support confidence, communication and wellbeing.

All sessions will be carefully planned and supervised, taking account of individual students' needs and preferences. If you would prefer your child not to take part in activities involving Kiki, please let their

class teacher know in writing. We are really looking forward to seeing Kiki develop her role across both school sites.

Could You Be Our Next Parent Governor?

As part of our continued commitment to strengthening our partnership with families, we currently have a Parent Governor vacancy on our Governing Body.

Parent Governors play an important role in helping to shape the strategic direction of the school, supporting and challenging school leaders and ensuring the best possible outcomes for our students. The role involves attending Governing Body meetings throughout the year, reading papers, participating in training and occasionally visiting school. It is a voluntary role, and no previous experience is necessary, as training and support are provided.

We would love to hear from parents and carers who are interested in contributing to the future development of our school. If you would like to find out more about the role or how to put yourself forward, please contact the school office.

As we head into the half-term break, I would like to thank our wonderful students, dedicated staff and supportive families for such a positive start to the year. We have much to look forward to next half term, including further opportunities to welcome families into school through our regular programme of coffee mornings and our seasonal events calendar. Look out for the very popular school discos.

I wish you all a happy and restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on 2nd November.

Kind regards,

K. Denton

Katie Denton

Headteacher