

Dear Parents

The term has started remarkably smoothly, with our I1s adjusting to their new routine with ease. Even our new pupils in Pre-School have taken to their new setting like ducks to water! We are so impressed. Thank you to all of our KGS families for assisting with this transition back to School; it has been particularly noticeable this academic year. Hopefully you have all had the opportunity to rest, relax and holiday together with friends and family; it has been a long time coming for all of us!

All of the pupils have demonstrated independence, good humour and have been gentle natured when making new friends and revisiting existing friendships. In addition to this all of our pupils have returned looking incredibly smart in their uniforms, and our Junior pupils are getting into a new 'old' routine of changing into their kit for PE lessons. Fingers crossed that there will be minimal lost property by the end of this week. Please do double-check that all of your child's items are named, including water bottles, stationery and Tupperware; Sharpies and Laundry Pens are ideal for this.

Drop Off/Collection & Co-Curricular

Collection time ran relatively smoothly yesterday; for our new parents: we promise that the traffic will ease somewhat when the co-curricular clubs commence next week! Further details will be sent to you in relation to these this week from Mr Lewis (Deputy Head, Pastoral). At the start of the day, the pupils may continue to enter School via the playground entrance/exit door or the School Office entrance, whichever is more convenient for you. Pre-School and I1 pupils may enter directly via their classroom doors.

We hope that the communication yesterday enabled you to ascertain collection points for your child/children. For those with more than one child, the eldest child/children will be sent to the youngest child's classroom for collection. This procedure should make the home time dash a little more palatable for those with commitments outside of KGS at the end of the day. Please do allow your child this week to settle in to this routine.

Registration & Staffing

A gentle reminder that Registration takes place at 8.45 am, with assembly starting at 8.50 am and lessons commencing at 9.15 am. It is imperative therefore for your child to arrive on or before this time. This will aid them in feeling settled for the day ahead, and ensure that they approach all elements of learning in a positive and relaxed way. As an aside, it also assists with managing the status quo within the classroom for all pupils. We appreciate that occasionally something unexpected may occur, and your child may be late to School. Please do ring the School Office to update us in these instances.

Miss Cat Kilburn, our new School Secretary, has already got to know many of your children, and she looks forward to getting to know many more of them and you in the coming weeks. She has already commented on how polite and enthusiastic our KGS pupils are. Miss Claire Smith-Leach (one of our new Teaching Assistants), Miss Lucy Turner (our new I1 Class Teacher) and Miss Natasha Woods (our new I3 Class Teacher) have reiterated this sentiment, and they are very grateful for the warm welcome our staff, your children and you have given them. Miss Joanne Stewart, my Personal Assistant, has kept up to speed with many of you during the break in relation to a range of areas; I do hope that this has helped prepare you for the term ahead, and enabled us to address your queries in a prompt fashion. Miss Stewart will now, however, be heading off to the city for a promotion, and I am sure we all wish her all the very best for the future.

Breakfast Club, Late Room & The School Office

Please note that the Breakfast Club/Late Room bell can be found on the left-hand side on the external doors to the School Office. Should you have any queries, in relation to wraparound care, or anything else, then please don't hesitate to visit the School Office where the School Office staff will be glad to assist you.

Although we communicate with our pupils via Google Classroom outside of School, all of our parental communication will always be sent via iSAMS emails. Please do, therefore, get in touch with the School Office if your email address has changed, or if there have been changes to any other personal details that we need to be aware of. If your child has any dietary and/or medical requirements, please also inform/update the School Office accordingly.

Google Classroom & Timetables

As previously mentioned, your child will receive their timetable at the start of next week, once we have had a full week to ensure that all runs as planned. This will also be saved in Google Classroom in order for them to access it at any time. Thank you for your patience in this regard.

Homework will officially commence next week; for our new parents, all homework set will be communicated to your child via their Google Classroom account. Your child's Class Teacher will run through the reminders about the use of Google Classroom, so that they feel confident in accessing this resource independently moving forward.

Summer Works & Curriculum Updates

I am pleased to report that Phase 2 of the planned work to the site perimeter fencing took place during the holidays, which you will notice along the exit road from the Junior, Infant and Pre-School. The site has been a hive of activity, with our EYFS Holiday Club, classroom moves and updates all taking place during July and August. The library has a new look too, with Mrs Wilson (Assistant Head, English) spending some time – with the help of various KGS staff - reorganising this area, in order to make accessing Accelerated Reader material straightforward for our pupils. I am also very excited to inform you that we had a new batch of reading material delivered today to enhance the range of books on offer. Mrs Wilson and Mrs Rowlands (Assistant Head, Mathematics) will be in touch this half term to share updates in the core curriculum areas.

Reading is a key to unlocking future success for our pupils, and this is something we continue to place at the pinnacle of learning here at KGS. We have introduced a Guided Reading session at the end of every day from now on for our I2 – J4 pupils; this means that alongside the Accelerated Reader Scheme (J1 – J4), your child will also read with their Class Teacher in a small group. They will encounter a range of genres and literary styles, all of which will supplement their day-to-day immersion in the curriculum, in addition to supporting strong language acquisition.

Our Class Teachers spent the INSET days last week preparing an exciting array of new learning for Geography and History, in addition to beginning to write our new Curriculum Forecasts for every subject, which we will send to you in due course this half term. These will assist you with supporting your child's learning outside of KGS, as we will provide you with an insight into the areas of study for the term ahead. The classrooms should also feel organised and conducive to learning; and I am hopeful that this approach will assist your child in remaining organised and focussed as the term progresses.

We have implemented a new spelling and handwriting scheme, and continued to supplement our phonics resources for our younger pupils. We are in the process of setting up a new behaviour management system, which records all of our pupils positive moments at KGS – whether that be individually, as a group, class or maybe a team. It will eventually serve to assist us with even swifter communication with you in relation to your child's 'wow' moments, or perhaps on the odd occasion where they have needed support in making the right decision. I am sure that this will continue to enhance the already strong communication and pastoral support that we have in place for every KGS pupil.

Madame Simpson, Mr Briers, Mrs Farquharson and Mrs Singleton (formerly known as Miss Boylan) have prepared updated lessons in a range of areas including for example Spanish in J1, dance, as well as football. These specialist teachers teach all of our pupils at some point from Pre-School to J4, so I do hope that your child enjoys working with other staff members, and that they find these lessons to be motivating, allowing them to express themselves in a range of ways. All of this continues to enhance and support their development in the wider curriculum. Our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Annie Faith, Miss Claire Smith-Leach and Mr Chris Currie, have worked hard to ensure the I1 classrooms, Computing and DT room are engaging and ready for learning, and I am sure your children will enjoy accessing these wonderful learning environments.

Please also note that when I spoke with your child/children yesterday during our brief assembly, I informed them of an update to the House names. Moving forwards our House names will revert back to what they once were, and will now be in line with Senior School. Birley will now be known as Fylde; Clifton will be Preston; Colborne will be School; and Drapers will be Kirkham. This will also help with our pupils' eventual transition from J4 to Senior School. All of our pupils in J4 transitioned this year to First Year, and we are incredibly proud with the strong foundation we have at KGS from 3 – 18. This is something we continue to work together on from Junior to Senior School to ensure the transition is seamless. I know that Mr Berry is looking forward to getting to know our J4 cohort even better this academic year in readiness for September 2023.

I am delighted, as I am sure you are too, that swimming will take place this term for our Junior pupils at the Poulton YMCA swimming pool. J3 and J4 will swim for this half term - on a Thursday - and J1 and J2 after the October holiday. J3 will start off the rota on 15 September, with J4 following on next week. Further details will be sent from Mr Briers and Mrs Farquharson tomorrow in relation to this.

Calendar Dates & Achievement Assemblies

I am very much looking forward to welcoming many of our J3 and J4 boys to the first fixture of the year this Saturday at KGS. Mr Briers has organised the fixtures on this date so that they are open to all boys interested in taking part. It should be an exciting and rewarding event for all of those that wish to attend

Your child brought home the official calendar yesterday for the term ahead, but I would like to draw your attention to an additional event – our **Parents' Social and Information Evening for our parents (I1 through to J4)**. This will take place on **Monday 19 September 7 – 8 pm**. An official invite will be sent to you soon.

Achievement Assemblies will recommence on Monday 19 September (Infants) and Tuesday 20 September (Juniors), and I look forward to welcoming any member of your immediate family who wishes to attend. These will start at 8.50 am and finish at 9.10 am. Please could I kindly request that any trophies, medals or certificates from outside of School, that your child wishes to showcase, are brought in the Friday before, so that I can see if I can accommodate them the following week.

Our Main Purpose

Finally, all of the staff at KGS are here to ensure that your child is safe, happy and has a positive and productive time at KGS *every single day*. I have reiterated this to your child during our welcome back assembly. Please encourage them to speak to any member of staff, at any time, about anything that they need support with; they have been told that they can always ask us for help, whether that be tightening laces, fastening ties or scaffolding their learning during the Power Maths Challenge! All we ask in return is that, in line with our School Values, they are **Curious, Determined and, above all, Kind**.

It has been a very positive start indeed to the term ahead.

With best wishes.

Mrs O'Donoghue
Headmistress