



2 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you have had a wonderful summer holiday and that you are looking forward to the year ahead. At the very start of the school year, I wanted to share some news with you and ask for your help with a couple of issues.

It has been the privilege of my life to serve as our Headteacher for the last 13 years and as Deputy Headteacher for the 10 years before that. However, I wish to inform you that I have made the decision to retire at Easter 2027. I will be Headteacher for 4 days a week until I retire and Mrs Morris will be Acting Headteacher for one day each week. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you, as our parent body, for all the help and support that I have received and continue to receive, it is and always has been hugely appreciated.

Our school is an amazing place because the values you instil at home, those of Respect, Honesty and Integrity are the same values we instil at school, and this mutual support goes a long way in making this school such a special place to be in. I will inform you of my successor once the appointment has been made.

In other matters, I would like your help to ask parents/family members who drive to school to drop children off to please use our designated drop off/pick up point of **St Oswald's Church Car Park on St Oswald's Road**. It is less than 5 minutes' walk into school and is by far the safest way to drop your child off. I ask you to please prioritise the safety of your child over the convenience of dropping them off on Vicarage Road, which is potentially very dangerous for both the driver and the child.

Another issue is the unauthorised use of mobile phones during the school day. I am sure that you are aware of the recent legislation which states "The Department for Education (DfE) expects schools to implement a policy whereby pupils do not have access to their mobile phone throughout the school day including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime." This serves as a timely reminder to parents of our mobile phone rules. As you are aware, I would much prefer a situation whereby no pupil came into school with a mobile phone, but I completely understand that some of you want your child to have a mobile phone for safety reasons whilst they travel to and from school. If you want this for your child, I politely request that you have a conversation with them to explain how important it is for you and that they strictly adhere to our rules. Any pupil who has their mobile phone out during the school day will have it temporarily confiscated.

The only exception to our mobile phone rules is for the first 2-week period for our Year 7 pupils.

When pupils start at our school we have to go through a 'two-factor authentication process' to get them logged into the school's IT system. When the pupils have their timetabled Computer Science lesson during the first 2 weeks, they will be given permission to use their mobile phones in this class solely for this purpose. If your child does not bring a mobile phone to school, please do not worry as we do have a number of school phones they will be allowed to use.

Finally, please refer to *pages 12 & 13 of the 'Family Handbook'* where you will find detailed information regarding personal presentation and uniform expectations. It is obviously essential that all pupils start the new school year well.

Thank you for your continued support, which is always greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'M.J. Duman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

M J DUMICAN
Headteacher