

Dear Parents,

Interesting week indeed! We usually see a long term forecast predicting snow only to find it turns out as nothing. This week has seen the 'perfect storm' and even up until late Wednesday night it was touch and go. It is always a pleasure to speak to the Verwood Headteachers at 5.30am! Apologies for any inconvenience caused, but the right decision was made.

Lots of exciting news to share with you.

I wrote last week to say we would let you know as soon as we could about any changes in staffing. Recruitment in the current climate is never easy but we are determined to have the very best teachers joining us. To that end we are delighted to announce two new teachers joining us over the next few months.

Mr Brennan will be joining us at Easter as Head of Maths having been a very successful teacher and passionate mathematician at Bishop Aldhelm's School. In the summer term he will be taking Mr Hall's class. Mr Hall has been successful in obtaining a promotion to a school near to his home in Shaftesbury. We thank him for his service to the school and his 'teamwork' ethic. Very exciting times ahead for him with an addition to his family and taking up an Assistant Headteacher role. Mrs Robertson will manage the day to day needs of Year 5 in the summer term, as she did during Mr Hall's paternity leave, with Mrs Ponchaud as back up from SLT.

We are excited to inform you that taking over from Mr Hall in September and, before that, leading the liaison with Year 4 families, we have Mrs Weir joining us from St John's First School. She too is an outstanding professional whose enthusiasm for bringing the best out in young people will be infectious to both your children and her colleagues.

There will be further improvements as we replace those who left before Christmas. Mr Jenkinson has been recruiting teachers for nearly 20 years as a Head and this, combined with the wider contacts of Wimborne Academy Trust, gives us confidence that we will be able to make more strong appointments.

Our visit this week went well. It was good for someone external to visit and confirm that we are making good progress against the points left from the Ofsted inspection this time last year. I will update the Single School Action Plan (SSAP) by next Friday, so please look out for this. When I have the report I will share this with you as highlights in this bulletin and post more detailed information on the school website. Thank you for your continued support.

We wish Mr Brenton, the pupils and staff team a safe journey to France next week and look forward to the daily blogs that appear in the school website. We will let you know when they have arrived. Fingers crossed there is no travel disruption.

The cake sale due to take place today will be held at another time. I hope any cakes that had already been purchased or baked were enjoyed at home. It was great to see support from Morrisons who provided ingredients which some of our year 8 pupils used to bake cakes after school this week. This week our year 8 and 5 buddy session was focused around World Book Day. I enjoyed my walk around during afternoon registration listening to pupils read and support each other. I will look into pupils dressing up next year if the interest is there. I am sure the School Council will help with this. Finally, good luck to the Year 6 football team who have a home fixture next week against Oakdale in the semi-final of the Cup.

Have a great weekend and I won't mention anything about the rugby . . .

Many thanks and I hope you have an enjoyable but safe weekend in the snow.

Rob Christopher

A WEEK IN PICTURES

Year 8 Fairtrade Baking for Cake Sale



Year 8 and Year 5 Reading Buddies