



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

Now that we have settled back into school, I would like to **welcome** you back with my first letter of 2019-2020. The children (and staff) have had a positive start to the school year. It is a pleasure to get to know our new to school children in the nursery and reception classes. I have been into the nursery to 'play', share experiences with siblings, read a story, give very special stickers and have visited all other classes too. We have welcomed Miss Gratton and Mrs Machin (no relation) to our staff team this term and they are doing very well at getting used to new names, faces and routines as well ☺. We have also been thinking about our Year 4, erm!!...Year 5 children and their exciting new start this year and I have chatted with many of you about how your children have settled into middle school (very well I hear). Mrs Clifford and Mrs Leese will be visiting St Edward's, Leek next week and Mrs Johnson and I hope to see the children soon too.

Thank you all for being patient and understanding that **dismissal** at the end of the day takes a little longer at this time of year. We have excellent staff who know the importance of **safeguarding procedures** and I know that you will be very pleased about that too. As always, staff are more than happy for you to wait until children are dismissed should you wish to talk with them at the end of the day. On the subject of safety, and on behalf of parent and community concerns raised, please remember that **parking** on the zig zag lines at the beginning and end of the school day is prohibited.

Thank you for taking the time to complete your end of year report comments and parent questionnaires. As ever, the abundance of positive comments makes our chosen profession even more rewarding. I hope you see an improvement in more notice on **diary dates** this year. The website calendar is the place for you to find these. As I referenced in my end of year letter, your feedback about **communication** and receiving too many letters and emails has been noted and we will make a conscious effort to improve this. We will only send letters if more information is needed (than that already on the website calendar) and will work harder at making sure that the content is accurate first time. We will limit leaflets, posters etc. and most community information will be available from the school entrance should you wish to access it. As expected, feedback opinions sought about **homework** were very varied so we have worked hard on 'tweaks' in response to your comments. Thank you again for your home-school partnerships with learning.

This year, we are wanting to increase the number and range of school led **before and after school club** opportunities and we will be consulting with children on what they would like them to be (it would be good to chat about this at home too). We will be making a minimal charge of £1 per club and costs will only be higher should we need to buy specific resources, pay for transport or admission to events. Clubs through private providers will continue to be offered in line with availability and their specified charges. We appreciate that, for some, this payment will be in addition to current after school childcare costs but, unfortunately, as this is a private provision, we have no influence over flexibility in relation to sessions and charges. We will review club provision and ensure that charging this minimal amount is, indeed, enabling us to provide a wider variety of experiences and opportunities for our children. To be clear, we are not looking to profit from providing extra curricula/enrichment opportunities; we aim to improve our provision.

As you will see for yourselves, **our academy environment** has been improved over the school holidays. As you are aware, we re-organised the classrooms so that each Key Stage is together. The children have been fantastic at finding their way to their new areas, being organised and keeping their belongings tidy. The new cloakroom areas and children's trays are certainly helping with this in school and I'm sure that they keep things just as tidy at home too! Thank you for your lovely comments about the **Community Artwork display** in our entrance. The children are very proud of it and so are we. We had so many entries that we still have more to display. These will be showcased in the school hall very soon – watch this space!

On a final note, thank you for making sure that your children are wearing the correct **uniform** this term. We have received many compliments about how smart the children look and the large majority of children tell us that they are 'very comfy' to wear. The children's learning, appearance and behaviour at St Edward's really are a credit to us all!

With very best wishes for a happy and healthy half term



Mrs Machin  
**PRINCIPAL**

