



## Learning and Caring Together,

“...they will flourish in the courts of our God.” (Psalm 92:13)

### End of Autumn 1 letter to parents

21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are at the first half term of the academic year already! Firstly, I want to let you know how well the children have settled at school this year. It feels as though our new to nursery and reception children have always been with us; they are happy settled and wowing us with their Early Years Learning. It was lovely to welcome you all for their **settling in singing** and to speak with you at parents evening too. Transition for the children in all other year groups has felt like a breeze. The children tell me they are happy, that their teachers are ‘good and kind’ and that they are enjoying their learning; a recipe for success in 2022-2023!

As you know, we keep you updated with what your child is learning through Dojo and our website. Looking back, it is so rewarding to see the curriculum learning experiences all year groups have been immersed in this half term. We are working really hard to ensure that the children have many opportunities to remember, recall, connect and use their learning (sticky knowledge) and you help with this by talking to your children about their learning, applying it to everyday contexts and supporting with home learning. Reading, practising spellings and mental maths at home has a huge impact on success in school and I thank you all for working together to ensure that your child achieves their very best.

Thank you to those who took part in the summer reading challenge that was organised by Mrs Hordern and Miss Fowler-Hill. The photographs sent into school were lovely to see and will be displayed in school soon. Being a successful reader is a gateway to the full curriculum and future life experiences and we pride ourselves on being a ‘reading school’. We are developing our in school **‘Book Nest’ library** and will be introducing our **‘Book Nest to take away’ Community Library** for all to access and enjoy very soon (thank you Mrs Hordern).

We also keep you up to date about school events through Dojo, Facebook, our newsletters (community, councils, on-line safety, wellbeing, safeguarding) and our website. I can’t believe how much we have done in just half a term! After the joyous platinum celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II, it was sad to mourn her passing so quickly this term. The respect and gratitude for her service shown by our children and community was commendable. Mrs Powell has pulled together our celebrations, reflections and condolences and will be sharing them in our school entrance soon for you to view.

We recognised and participated in **National Fitness Day** with our skateboarding workshops and introducing daily skipping at St Edward's (thank you Mr Carter) and **National Poetry Day** (thank you Miss Fowler-Hill). We also value the importance of good mental health for happiness and achievement for all as part of our ethos and culture at St Edward's, and emphasised this as part of **World Mental Health Day** (thank you Mrs Leese). Further detail about these events was shared in our latest community newsletter (thank you Mrs Huckfield) on Dojo and Facebook.

In addition to the above, our children are enjoying their **after school clubs** again this term and we have elected our new **Eco, Christian and School Council** representatives (thank you Mr Warrington); the children are wearing their badges with pride. They are meeting to discuss and agree their leadership priorities for the year and will keep you all updated via their newsletters during the year.

As always, it is a pleasure to welcome you into school and it was good to see you at parent's evening. The staff are always grateful for your appreciation, your partnership working and views. It was also lovely to see some of you at our **'Watch me Learn RE' lessons and worship** this week. Your feedback shows that these sessions are valuable to you and I thank all my staff for being so open to having parents in their classrooms to watch teaching and learning in action.

As always, our **PTFA** have been busy fundraising for our children. Already, they have held **coffee and cake events, uniform sales, book sales, a pumpkin carving competition, Christmas art and our autumn disco**. They are part of the furniture in school and their dedication and commitment is second to none; thank you team!

On a less positive note, following our health and safety audit, **it is with regret that, with the exception of access due to disability or injury, we will be closing our staff school carpark to parents at all times, including Brambles and after school clubs.** There have been several 'bumps' of late (vehicles - not involving people, thank goodness). Our school gate and post was also damaged by a vehicle last week and this was not reported into school. Despite polite reminders, we also have some parents and children walking across the car park and I emphasise, in the interests of safety, that the designated paths must be used at all times. **The Parish Council** are happy for parents and carers to use the community centre carpark during drop off and pick up times but have asked me to remind our families that parking on the Community Centre is a privilege and that the facility and members of the community must be respected at all times.

Now back to more positive news...I am incredibly proud that our Year 2 children will be leading their **Harvest Service at St Edward's Church, Cheddleton** for our families and the wider community this Sunday. You are all welcome and Mr Carter, Mrs Clifford and Mrs Huckfield would be really pleased for children and families from all year groups to join them for the service on Sunday morning.

**On a final note, we are looking forward to welcoming visitors from our local community on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November when we are hosting a 'Community Curriculum Evening' from 4.00pm-7.00pm where we will be showcasing our curriculum and all that our school has to offer. Please spread the word; whether people have children or not, all are very welcome to 'come for a nose' and to see our environment and what the children get up to at our school.**

With very best wishes for a happy and safe half term,



Mrs Machin  
Principal

