



Newsletter 1 September 2011

Dear Parents,

A Message from Mr Jones

Welcome back! I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer and that everyone is looking forward to an exciting year at FKS. It has been a hectic time for the Jones family. My wife, Jac, and I have been preparing for new jobs, our eldest daughter has just started her first teaching position at Brighton College and our youngest daughter has had the stress of waiting for her A Level results and is now looking forward to starting at York University next month. All of this, combined with our move to a new flat in the area, has ensured that the summer has kept us fully occupied!

With the new academic year comes a fresh challenge. I thank Mrs Woods for all she did in her time as Head Teacher. I have been in awe at how thorough she has been in every aspect of her position and have been most grateful for the equally diligent way she handed over to me. I am excited by the challenges ahead - the infrastructure of the school with regard to curriculum issues is sound and gives me the opportunity to focus on other areas of the school's development.

My immediate aims are two-fold. Firstly, I want to ensure that the school continues to give a first class, all round education to our current pupils. Academic success and fitting opportunities to develop the whole child are both essential. Secondly, I need to make every effort to attract new pupils to the school. I am not a great advocate of change for the sake of change and will take my time to assess how things run. However, there are various aspects that I am looking to change straight away. The school day is of vital importance and, with immediate effect, both Houses will be open and staff will be on duty to allow parents to drop off their children from 8.15am. At Edwards House, any child arriving early should come into school to wait in Mrs Stanwyck's classroom until 8.35am. At Andrews House, parents should ring the front doorbell. Children will then wait in Miss Barlow's room. We hope that this will be of particular use to those parents who have to leave earlier for work. Obviously, it would not be ideal for everyone to arrive at this earlier time. At the other end of the day, at Edwards House, the After-School Clubs programme has been extended and now offers some activities on a Friday afternoon until 4.30pm. We are currently looking into the logistics of running after school activities at Andrews House and the potential of extended after school care in both houses. I will, of course, keep you informed of how things progress.

The website has been a high priority of mine for improvement and I have been so grateful to Mr David Sheppard for all the work he has been doing on this over the summer. As I write, the welcome page of the current website has been updated, although a whole new site is also being developed, some of which is due to go 'live' very soon. We are looking to use this medium much more to disseminate information between home and school. Please keep checking to see the development of the new website.

Attached with this newsletter is the Pupil Information Form for 2011/12. In addition to the usual information is the request for a current email address for parents. We are going to be developing a system to allow us to send out much of our correspondence electronically, although paper copies will always be available from the School Office if required.

Once we have a database of parent email contacts, I am aiming to send out an online questionnaire to all parents to seek opinions on various topics. I would be most grateful to any parents who are able to take the time to complete and return a questionnaire and thank you in advance for this.

I very much look forward to meeting you all over the coming term. I will try to be available at either Edwards House or Andrews House alternatively at the end of each day so please do come up and say hello.

I apologise for the length and format of this first newsletter, but I felt that it was important for me to begin by updating you all as to my priorities and intentions, while also communicating the usual important information and reminders.

With my very best regards,

Mr Nick Jones
Headmaster

Staff News

Welcome to new staff

We are delighted to welcome some other new members of staff to the team at FKS. Firstly, Miss Joanne Barlow who will be form teacher for the new Reception intake and in charge of the running of Andrews House. We also welcome Miss Imogen Burcher and Miss Emily Carman who join Edwards House as Year 5 form teachers. Each brings a wealth of experience and we wish them all an enjoyable first term at FKS. Please take the time to say hello to them.

Mrs Stewart

Unfortunately Mrs Stewart (1S Form Teacher) has had to go into hospital for an operation and will be absent from school for several weeks while she recuperates. We are sure you will join us in wishing her a speedy recovery. In the meantime, Mrs Stewart's class will be ably covered by Mrs Beaton, who currently teaches Music at Andrews House.

Miss Careless becomes Mrs Fuller!

Congratulations to Mrs Fuller (PA to the Head/School Secretary), previously Miss Careless, who got married over the summer. We wish her and her husband much happiness for the future.

After School Clubs at Edwards House

We are currently finalising the extended draft programme for the Autumn Term and will be sending letters home shortly. Clubs are due to start in the week commencing Monday, 19th September and the cost remains at £5 per session (no charge for Sports Clubs). Information on each club will be available on our website.

Individual Music Tuition

There are currently limited spaces available for pupils to take up individual music lessons in singing, keyboard, flute, clarinet or saxophone. If you would like more information please contact Mrs Fuller in the School Office. Spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis with a waiting list being held after all places have been filled.

Autumn Term Calendar

A full and varied calendar is currently being finalised and a copy will be sent home very shortly. This will also be available on our website which will be kept up to date with any additional activities that may be added throughout the term. As of next term, it is the intention to ensure that the complete calendar is posted on the website either on or before the first day of term.

Autumn Term Dates Reminder

Half Term - Monday, 24th October to Tuesday, 1st November (inclusive)

Autumn Term ends - Friday, 16th December (AH at 12noon, EH at 12.15pm)

Term dates for the next academic year (2011-12) will be distributed later this month.

Edwards House Timetables

As existing Edwards House parents are aware, the children are given their class timetable on their first day back. This timetable will then be trialled for a week and then a final version will be sent home after this time.

Open Day

Please note the date for this year's Open Day as Saturday, 15th October.

This is a very important date in our calendar. This year, we will be delighted to welcome both current and prospective parents - full details will follow. We are aiming to ensure that the event is well publicised and we are currently looking into various forms of advertising. If you feel you can help here in anyway, please do get in touch with Mrs Grymonprez in the School Office. Perhaps you could display a poster? Perhaps you know of or own a business and would be willing to sponsor our flyers/banners etc. Or perhaps you just know of one or two people who are looking for high quality, good value education that you could bring along?

Uniform

As the weather at this time of year can be unpredictable, we would ask parents to use their discretion when deciding whether their child should come to school in summer or winter uniform. After Half Term, we would ask that all children are in their winter uniform. Please ensure that all items are labelled, including lunch boxes and drink bottles.

We understand that there are currently problems with the sourcing of Year 5 and 6 girl's blouses. Miss Lipman has met with Townrows and they are looking at ways to overcome this situation. In the meantime, the girls are very welcome to wear plain white shirts/blouses.

Allergies

Nuts: We currently have a child at school who has a severe nut allergy. It is therefore of prime importance that no items are sent into school which obviously contain nuts or nut oils (cereal bars are acceptable provided they that nuts are not listed as an ingredient).

Flowers: Miss Burcher has a severe allergy to flowers, but in particular lilies. We would therefore be most grateful if Year 5 could refrain from bringing any flowers or plants into school and would be appreciative if all Edwards House parents could be aware of this.

Website

As previously stated, the website has undergone a 'refurbishment' and will continue to expand and develop over the coming year to provide both current and prospective parents with a wealth of information. We are planning to make greater use of this facility as a way of passing information to parents as this is both instant and more eco-friendly. It will, however, be possible to obtain paper copies of any documentation from the School Office. We would like to ask parents to support us with this development and regularly check the website for updates.

School Rules

It is usual practice for us to attach hard copies of the general school rules and the PE rules with the first newsletter of the year. In light of our new initiative, these will now be available to view on the website, with hard copies being available from the School Office if requested. Please ensure that both you and your child read these documents.

Pupil Information/Emergency Contact Forms

Please find this form attached for completion and return as soon as possible. It is important that this is completed as fully and accurately as possible as it is used to update our records of vital information relating to your child, in particular emergency contact details. If there are no changes since last year, it would still be much appreciated if parents could complete this year's form in full please. As already mentioned, this year there is the addition of a request for an email address for parents as, in line with our website developments, we also hope to develop our electronic links with parents using email where appropriate. If you advise us of more than one email address on the form, please ensure you state which should be used as the primary contact.

Lunchtime Assistants

We are always looking for parents who are willing and able to offer some of their time to assist with lunchtime sessions at Andrews House. If you are able to offer any help, please see Mrs Sutton at Andrews House who will add your name to a reserve list.

Charity/Fundraising update

Sports Day proved to be a great fundraiser - thanks to everyone who purchased photographs from DE Photo on the day - we managed to raise over £160 for the PA fund. Also, thanks to the hard work of last year's Year 6 with the running of their stalls, we were delighted to be able to send a donation of £166 to both Cancer Research UK and also the British Heart Foundation.

You will note from the calendar that this term we will be supporting Genes 4 Jeans and Children in Need. Later this month we will also hold a 'Coffee Morning' in aid of Macmillan and to mark 'Grandparents' Day. Existing parents may remember the very successful Grandparents' morning we held two years ago. Further details will follow.

Thank you messages

Mrs Willoughby and Mrs Smith would like to thank all the children and parents who gave gifts and good wishes for their retirement at the end of last term, a gesture that was warmly appreciated. They hope that everyone has a good start to the new academic year, and wish the school continued success for the future.

Thank you cards for the parents and children of FKS have also been received from Mrs Woods and will be displayed on the external notice boards at both Andrews House and Edwards House. An extract follows:

"I have many happy memories and the cards, drawings and photographs will always be a wonderful reminder of the very special school FKS is, made so by the children, parents and staff. I wish you all well as the school embarks on a new chapter and feel very privileged to have been just a small part of the school's history".

Finally Mr Jones, Miss Lipman and all the staff would like to wish you all a good Autumn Term.