



Irthlingborough Junior School

From the Head Teacher...



Welcome Back!

Firstly let me apologise for how long it's taken me to sit down and write my first newsletter of the term. It was certainly a busy start (more of that later) and we hit the ground running on the first day and since then, the first week has flown by.

It was good to welcome the Year 3 children into school on the first morning. I think that we achieved a good period of transition over the summer thanks to the hard work of Miss Ryan and her team. In case you weren't aware, Miss Ryan spent lots of time in the summer term at the Infant School getting to know the children by meeting them and talking to their teachers. I am confident that it will provide a good base for the early weeks of transition to our school.

It is nice to welcome all the children back into their new classes and year groups. A school is a very strange place without the energy and hustle and bustle that 460 children bring to the building. We spent a lot of time over the summer working on the site improving the playground and the classrooms.

We had two rooms redesigned into Learning Hubs with new furniture and interactive whiteboards. I would attempt to describe them but my words wouldn't do the spaces justice. I am looking forward to Parents' evening when you can see them for the first time.

The school invested in seven more touchscreen boards for classrooms that act like giant iPads. They connect wirelessly to the internet but can also be connected to staff iPads and laptops so are very much a driving part of the learning in classrooms.

We had two shelters built in the top playground. We realise that the sail shelter is a little on the small side so we're adding another one before the end of term. The shelters are designed to protect the children from the sun on very hot days however since we've had them built the weather has taken a turn for the worse...

The development work caused a great deal of mess so we have also had a programme of redecoration around the school to make it fresher for the children's return. We also had the hall decorated with new colourful house team stripes to make the space a little brighter.

None of the work would have been possible without the hard work of a good team of people. Mrs Barry our school Bursar and Mr Hodson the site supervisor worked around the clock with contractors to make sure everything was ready for the start of September and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them and Mrs Meekings for their work over the summer holidays.

Science and STEM days

We started the term with three days of science. We 'collapsed the curriculum' to make room for the STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) days. It culminated with a visit from lots of STEM Ambassadors who visited on the first Friday to speak to the children. STEM Ambassadors are everyday people who work in an industry that involves STEM and the reason for their visit was to inspire children to begin thinking about what they want to do with their futures. It was a really rewarding three days in school and thanks have to go to Mrs Drew who is our new Science Leader for organising their visit.

Polite Reminders

Uniform—the children looked splendid on their return and we've made it a priority to ensure we maintain that level of presentation in all the children. We will be sending reminders out to you if your child begins to wear clothing that doesn't fit in with our uniform guidelines. That includes no bracelets, rings or necklaces; no nail varnish and only small stud earrings please.

PE Kit—PE and games are subjects that are at the heart of our curriculum. We do have spare kit in school but it is important that children remember to bring in their PE kit at the start of every term.

Mobile Phones—We do allow children to bring in mobile phones as long as they are handed in at the school office. Please remind your children that they shouldn't be using their phone on the school site to take photos and they shouldn't be keeping their phones in their school bags.

Finally, I'm excited about the new school year and working hard to improve what we offer to your children. We are here for them and you as parents. Your opinion is very important and we will be asking you your views more often throughout the school year. Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter.

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