

### Welcome Back

Hello and welcome back to everyone at Home Farm. It has been an incredibly busy summer and it is both a pleasure and a relief to be able to open for you on Wednesday.

This year sees our first two form classes in Years R and 4. The first few days have been very exciting; I've met lots of our new faces and families and I look forward to getting to know you all over the coming weeks. We've already had our new reception classes (Rosen and Bloom) in for some afternoons and the classrooms are buzzing with busy children. Year 4 (Lear and Zephaniah) sees a few new faces starting with us – and I have been very proud of the mature and friendly way our existing pupils have made new friends with the new starters already.

It is with pleasure to say that our new building is open alongside most of our old building's refurbishments. The new block of 8 classrooms, toilets and our dance/gym studio is up and running. Our new Year R classrooms, hall and kitchen facilities are ready and our larger office space is now open and ready to run (please forgive our temporary front desk – the final desk is yet to arrive!) As you may see, our reroof continues apace – the entire roof is being stripped and re-laid, including new skylights and this will be ready for the October half term. Parents will be able to enter the new block when we make our first 'open classrooms' event, which will happen at some point at the end of September.

As ever, myself and a member of the senior leadership team will be available on the gate to welcome children or yourselves at the start of the day so please feel free to talk to me about anything on your mind. Apart from football – I know very little about the offside rule, sorry!

Richard Potter  
Headteacher



### After-school club

Our new after-school club will be operational from Monday 17th September, providing childcare and structured play after school from 3:15pm to 6:00pm.

There will be two rates available—

- £15 for a full session up to 6:00pm including a meal;
- A reduced rate of £5 for collection before 4:15pm (no meal included).

You will be able to book pay through our Scopay system. We are in the process of getting our booking arrangements set up and we will update you on this next week.

### Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs every morning from 8:00am providing a healthy breakfast and structured play. Sessions cost £2.50 per child, payable through Scopay. Please ask for a booking form if you would like to book a space. You can contact the school office at admin@homefarm.essex.sch.uk

### **Ordering school dinners and paying for items**

Children in Years 1 to 6 have brought home a meal order form this week, which can be used to order school dinners next week. These forms are sent home on Wednesdays each week—please ensure they are returned by Friday. Meals for children in Key Stage 1 are free, meals for children in Key Stage 2 cost £2.20 per day.

You can pay for school dinners through Scopay our online payments system. All payments should be made online—we do not take cash in school. We are in the process of setting up accounts for the families who are new to the school this year—further details will be provided early next week, and you will be able to pay for any meals you have ordered then.

If you are sending a packed lunch for your child, please note that we are a nut-free school and don't include anything containing nuts in your child's packed lunch.

You can see the school dinner menus on the [school meal pages](#) of our website. The menu uses a three week cycle, and next week is week 1. We will be moving to new winter menus after the October half-term.

### **Access to the school building after the school day**

After the school day has ended, our cleaners begin cleaning the school premises, and we hand over spaces in the building to various activities including private hires and the after-school club.

Now that the school premises are larger, it is really important that we are able to manage this safely. For this reason, we are unfortunately not able to accommodate children or younger siblings returning to the building to use the toilets after the school day has finished.

Thank you for your understanding.

### **Tasty Tuck**

Our Year 5 children in Rossetti class run a healthy tuck shop on Tuesday and Thursday break times each week. All snacks cost 50p. You can see further details of what is available and the ingredients on the [tuck shop](#) page of our website. Tuck shop will be open for the first time this term on Tuesday 11th September.

### **Extra-curricular clubs**

We will have full programme of clubs and activities running before and after school this year—further details will be sent home to you next week.