

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to all our pupils, staff, and families following the half term break. I trust you have had a restful and enjoyable time away from school.

At the start of this week, I held our whole school assembly with a focus on goals and aspirations. I encouraged our pupils to think big, to pursue their ambitions with determination, and to understand that hard work truly does win. To illustrate this point, I shared the story of Malorie Blackman, the renowned children's author who received 82 rejection letters from publishers before her first book was finally printed. Her experience serves as a powerful reminder that perseverance and resilience are essential qualities in achieving success.

The Department for Education has recently published its schools white paper, *Every Child Achieving and Thriving*. This document sets out various plans and proposals for education moving forward. It is important to emphasise that the white paper is not statutory guidance, and there have been no changes to current legislation at this stage. Rather than provide a comprehensive summary of all proposals, I have focused on two key points that I hope will offer immediate reassurance to our community:

1. From September 2029, reviews at transition points, such as the move from primary to secondary education, will determine whether pupils progress to an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan or an Individual Support Plan (ISP).
2. The consultation document confirms that **all** existing EHC plans will remain in place until September 2030.

These measures should provide stability and clarity during this period of consultation and development.

We are delighted to celebrate **World Book Day** on **Thursday 5th March 2026**. Pupils and staff are warmly invited to come to school dressed as their favourite literary character, whether from a novel, comic, traditional tale, poem, or any book they enjoy. As part of our celebrations, we will be running a Book Swap, which offers a wonderful opportunity for our young people to discover new stories and share books they have enjoyed. If students wish to participate, they may bring a book from home to donate by **Wednesday 4th March**. In exchange, they will receive a token which can be swapped for a different book on World Book Day itself. We kindly ask that any donated books are in good condition and suitable for young people aged 11 to 16. We very much look forward to celebrating this special event together and witnessing the enthusiasm our students bring to it.

Thank you to Mr Fitzsimmons for organising this event.



Headteacher: Mr M. McCann

Finally, I would like to remind parents and carers about our strict medication protocols. All medication must be sent to school in its original, labelled box and must be signed in upon arrival. Medication should never be held in pupils' bags, as this creates significant safeguarding and organisational concerns. We appreciate your cooperation in supporting these important procedures.

Yours faithfully,

Mr McCann
Head Teacher



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