Welcome Back to Autumn Term 2

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of our Federation,

A very warm welcome back to everyone as we begin Autumn Term 2, one of the most exciting and memorable half terms of the school year. The weeks ahead are always filled with anticipation, celebration, community spirit and the joy that comes with preparing for Christmas. There are so many wonderful opportunities ahead for our children, and we are looking forward to sharing them with you.

Before the half-term break, I was privileged to be shown a fascinating photograph of the area surrounding the Infant School, taken some time between 1936 and the outbreak of the Second World War. Looking closely at the image, I noticed that many of the gardens were planted with vegetables. It was a simple yet powerful reminder of a very different time, when communities worked together, supported one another and shared a common purpose.



As we approach our Remembrance services, that image has remained firmly in my mind. It has made me reflect on the importance of community and the vital role it plays in all our lives. Most importantly, it reminds us how much our children benefit when the adults around them work together with kindness, respect and understanding. In a world that can sometimes feel filled with sadness, division and unnecessary anger, there is real strength in choosing a different path.

Imagine what could be achieved if we all focused a little more on kindness, a little more on encouragement and a little less on the negatives that life can sometimes place in our way. Imagine the positive impact we could have on our children if they consistently saw adults modelling compassion, empathy and understanding.

I can honestly say that there is not a single member of staff across our Federation who does not live our values every day. They work tirelessly to ensure that our children flourish academically, socially and emotionally. They are committed to helping pupils become well-rounded individuals who celebrate difference, demonstrate tolerance, show kindness and develop the confidence to thrive in modern society.

As we move through this season of remembrance, I encourage us all to pause and reflect. Let us remember those who sacrificed so much so that we can enjoy the freedoms and opportunities we have today. Let us honour their legacy by showing care, empathy and compassion to those around us. These values resonate deeply within our schools and community and remain at the heart of all that we do.

Raising Concerns Constructively

From time to time, parents and carers may have questions, worries or concerns, and we actively encourage these to be shared with us. The most effective way to resolve concerns is by speaking directly with the school so that we can listen, understand the issue fully and work together towards a positive solution.

We kindly ask that concerns are raised through the appropriate school channels in the first instance, rather than through social media, messaging groups or other public forums. Written comments can sometimes be misunderstood, taken out of context or unintentionally cause upset, while direct conversations allow for clarity, understanding and resolution.

Our shared priority is always the wellbeing and success of our children. By approaching concerns respectfully, openly and collaboratively, we can strengthen the positive partnership between home and school and ensure the best possible outcomes for every child.

Congratulations!

I am delighted to share some wonderful personal news from our staff team.

Many congratulations to Mr Field-Hakim and his beautiful wife, Mrs Field-Hakim, who celebrated their wedding during the half-term break. I am sure you will all join me in wishing them every happiness as they begin this exciting new chapter together.

Important Dates for Your Diary

Monday Mingle and Launch of the New Federation PTFA

- Monday 9th November: 8.00pm
- South Petherton Pavillion Cricket Club

We would love to see as many parents, carers, family members and friends as possible at the launch of our brand-new PTFA (Parent Teacher Friends Association).

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet others within our community, hear about future plans and discover ways to support our schools positively and proactively. A complimentary drink and nibbles will be provided.

Importantly, this event takes place at the Cricket Club, providing a neutral and welcoming venue where everyone is invited and everyone belongs. Together, we can build something truly special for our children. New ideas, fresh initiatives and willing volunteers are all warmly welcomed.

Curriculum Information Evening

- Wednesday 25th November: 5.00pm

We invite all parents and carers to attend an informal curriculum evening where you will have the opportunity to:

- Meet subject leaders and staff.
- Learn more about our curriculum from Pre-School to Year 6.
- Gain a deeper understanding of how we teach and sequence learning.
- Ask questions directly to members of staff.

This promises to be a valuable and informative evening, helping strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Christmas Fayre

- Friday 4th December

Our annual Christmas Fayre will soon be upon us and there will be many opportunities to get involved. Funds raised will support enrichment opportunities for all children across the Federation, helping to ensure every child benefits from memorable experiences regardless of circumstance.

Infant and Pre-School Nativity Services

Held at Church

- Wednesday 9th December: 2.00pm (siblings welcome)
- Thursday 10th December: 2.00pm (adults only)

This year our Infant and Pre-School children will come together to present a spectacular traditional Nativity, accompanied by some beautiful singing. We are sure it will be a wonderful celebration of the Christmas story and a highlight of the season.

Junior Christingle Concert

- Wednesday 16th December; 2.00pm

This performance is for Junior parents and carers.

Our Infant pupils will have the opportunity to watch the rehearsal, while Year 6 pupils will attend the dress rehearsal of the Infant and Pre-School Nativity, ensuring everyone has the chance to enjoy these special occasions.

Working Together

Alongside this letter, I have attached a reminder of our:

- Complaints Procedure
- Parent Code of Conduct
- Guidance documents to support positive home-school partnerships

These documents are designed to help us continue working together in a constructive, respectful and collaborative way.

Strong schools are built on strong relationships. When families and schools work side by side, children benefit enormously. They feel safer, more secure and better able to achieve their potential.

As we embark on what promises to be a busy, joyful and memorable half term, thank you for your continued support. Together, let us ensure our children experience the kindness, encouragement and sense of belonging that every child deserves.

We look forward to sharing many special moments with you over the coming weeks.

With warmest wishes

Mrs Shan Weston
Executive Headteacher
South Petherton Schools Federation