

SPEEN CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
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Dear Parents and Carers,

As the summer term draws to a close with a busy timetable of events we would like to bring a few items to your attention.

Staff changes

We are very sad to report that Mrs Kirstie Brewer has told us that she will not continue to teach at Speen School after the end of this term. After long and careful consideration, she has concluded that whilst her own children are at crucial stages of their school lives she must put her family's interests first. Much as we will miss the very valuable contribution Mrs Brewer has made to the school community, we can all respect her careful thought and professional approach as she has been considering this step. We have made clear that the door is open if Mrs Brewer feels that she can resume regular teaching duties in the future, and we are very pleased that she will remain able to provide occasional supply teaching at Speen School when this is required. Kirstie is a very popular member of the team, and she will be greatly missed. We wish her the very best.

Part time Teaching Assistant Mrs Uhart will also be leaving us and we thank her for all her help this year and wish her the best in the future. We will welcome two new TAs from September, Mrs Tina Zychowychs (full-time) and Mrs Yvonne Hanson (part-time). Mrs Nayna is finalising plans for deployment of TA staff to support both Mrs Hayman's and Mrs Lidington's classes, and we are sure you will get to know the new staff well within a short space of time.

Year R morning drop off

In keeping with most schools we will be introducing a system whereby you hand over your child to Mrs Hayman at the Reception class entrance. This will alleviate any congestion within the cloakroom and encourage the greater independence of the children. With independence in mind can we also remind parents of children starting in year R to please help us as much as possible over the summer holidays to ensure their personal care is understood, in order to maximise staff teaching time and reduce avoidable toilet visits!

Redecoration

During the summer holidays a refurbishment of the school interior's visual appearance will be undertaken so expect a fresh new look in September.

Early morning care

A separate letter and form are attached detailing our plans for your perusal.

Communication

The school promotes an Open door policy and welcomes parents who wish to discuss any elements about the school or the education we are providing at any time. Please always talk to your child's teacher at the earliest opportunity. The school considers any concerns very seriously and most problems can be resolved following discussion and a shared understanding of the issues. All members of staff work very hard to ensure that each child is happy at school and is making good progress and they always want to know if there is a problem so they can help to resolve it. The governors are also very interested to hear any suggestions you have that would enhance our interactions with you. We believe this needs to be an area of continuous improvement for governors, and whilst we have recently taken steps to increase the level of parent representation on the governing body (see below) we will continue to make more governors visible at a wide variety of school events.

From September we plan to introduce an updated 'Guide for New Parents' to enable a swift settling in process for both child and parents new to the school. Watch this space. We do hope parents also find the informal coffee mornings hosted by one of our governors each term useful as a way of sharing ideas.

Governor changes

One of our longest standing governors and former Chair, Amanda Cleaver, is leaving at the end of this term, as she will soon be moving out of the area. A tireless supporter of our school, we will miss her huge commitment and wealth of knowledge in all areas of school governance. We are delighted, however, to welcome school parents Leanne Warner and Charlotte Barlow to our board of governors: they are looking forward to using their professional skills on various committees that help to manage the school.

Thank you

We would like to pass on huge thanks to the PTA, who this year have worked tirelessly to organise various fantastic events such as Speenfest, Summer Soiree, Safari Supper, Christmas Fair and Fish and Chip quiz suppers to name a few. Your efforts are hugely appreciated, and the governors and staff look forward to discussing with the PTA Committee how the funds that have been raised can be put to best use for the educational benefit of the children at Speen School.

Finally, a big thank you to all of the hardworking children and committed staff team who make us very proud to be involved with such a wonderful school. If your Year 2 child is moving on to pastures new, we wish you and them the very best of luck in their new schools.

Yours sincerely,

Speen School Governors