



Our ref: LTM/kmd/newyear

8 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Happy New Year & Welcome Back

On behalf of all at Oldbury Wells School, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year and wish you all the very best for 2024. I hope that you have had an enjoyable festive period and, despite the wet weather, enjoyed time with family and friends.

Please see below some important updates for the start of term:

- **Start of Spring Term**

For students, the new term starts tomorrow (Tuesday, 9 January 2024); this is Week 2 on the timetable for all students.

- **Staff Updates**

We are delighted to welcome two new staff to the team, **Mrs Hubbard** will be joining our Science team and **Mrs Dunning** (who lots of students will know from her previous work in the school) joins our Applied Studies team, teaching Business Studies and ICT. Just prior to Christmas, we also welcomed Mr Cook back to the English team from his adoption leave and Mrs Humphries who returns to the Science team following her maternity leave.

Having started her role as SENCO last term, **Mrs Morgan** now commences her role on a full time basis. **Mrs Anthony** will continue to support the work of the SEND team throughout the Spring term, alongside her new role working with our central Trust team.

Mr Smith will now step into the role of Head of Year 7, which will sit alongside his wider school responsibilities linked to Primary Partnership, Ethos, Enrichment and Extra Curricular.

- **Preparing for the new term**

Staff have today been involved in a PD day which has brought all our Trust schools together at both primary and secondary level. The focus of the day has been on how we continue to develop our work in school to support students' personal development, alongside their academic success. At the heart of this are the Character Traits which we continuously refer to throughout school and were further discussed in assemblies at the end of term:

- **Resilience** – Being independent and overcoming difficulties faced.
- **Courage** – Being brave and doing things that may seem scary and outside of your comfort zone.
- **Honesty** – Being truthful to yourself and others.
- **Confidence** – Believing in yourself and others, knowing your strengths and learning from yourself and weaknesses and mistakes to better yourself.

Aspire | Enjoy | Achieve

- **Independence** – The ability to have your own thoughts and feelings, to influence and resolve things for yourself.
- **Empathy** – Understanding and caring for the feelings of others.
- **Tolerance and respect for others** – To understand that everyone is different, accepting this and learning from each other.

As you are aware, we ask our students to always be Ready, Respectful and Safe in school and look forward to welcoming everyone back to move on successfully into the new year.

- **Uniform**

This week we will be undertaking our regular uniform checks, we recognise the importance of students being smart in school and would ask all parents to ensure that everyone is returning to school in line with our school uniform requirements (<https://www.oldburywells.com/parentguardian-information/uniform>).

- **School Safety**

Can I remind parents of the need to park safely, being aware of the safe school zones which should not be used while waiting to pick students up from school. Can I also ask parents to have heightened awareness around the school crossing which provides a main throughway for our students across site. The road layout is designed to support all pedestrians and drivers, it is important we adhere to the requirements of the identified zones to keep everyone safe.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back into school tomorrow. I wish all students and staff a positive start to the new term and thank all families for their ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Lee Tristham
Headteacher