

Dear parents,

## Learning

### A Positive Start

Welcome back after the Christmas holidays! It's wonderful to see the school community together again and learning in full swing. It's important that the children pick up from where they left off last term, and writing will continue to be a key focus. At the recent Parent Forum, there was a request for more opportunities for children to write their own stories. While we do this as much as possible, we are guided by curriculum requirements. Please encourage your child to write creatively and for fun at home—especially during these colder months when outdoor play may be limited.

### Our Value This Term: Curiosity

This term, our school value is Curiosity. We want every child to feel confident asking questions, exploring ideas, and discovering new ways of thinking. Curiosity is the spark that drives learning—it helps children make connections, deepen their understanding, and develop a lifelong love of learning. In class, teachers will be encouraging children to wonder, investigate, and challenge themselves. At home, you can support this by talking about what interests your child, asking open-ended questions, and celebrating those “why” moments. Together, we can nurture inquisitive minds that are ready for the future.

## Caring

### Learning How to 'Be'

The atmosphere in school remains positive, and behaviour continues to be a real strength, although we know it's never perfect. Children are showing high levels of respect for each other and for adults, and classrooms are calm and purposeful. Our aim is not only to teach academic and creative subjects but also to help children learn how to 'be'—developing kindness, empathy, and resilience. These qualities are just as important as reading, writing, and maths because they prepare children for life beyond school.

Attendance remains strong, and we thank you for your support in this. Every day matters—not just for learning but for building friendships, practising teamwork, and developing those vital social skills. When children miss school, they miss out on shared experiences that help them grow as individuals. Please continue to prioritise attendance so that every child can thrive both academically and personally.

### Mrs Boulton Returns

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Boulton, after her time away due to illness. The children have missed her greatly, and we are so pleased to have her back. Her work is invaluable in supporting learning and wellbeing, and we know Rowan Class will benefit hugely from her return.

## Achieving

### Building on Success

Last term was fantastic, but as one of my former headteachers (an avid Arsenal fan) used to say: *"We're only as good as our last match."* This is so true in education—we cannot sit back and rest on our laurels. We must keep striving to be the best school we can be. Thank you for your continued support; together, we can make this term even better than the last.

## Together

### Improvements Around School

Following feedback from the Parent Forum and our ongoing commitment to improvement, several updates have been made around the school. The trim trail has had extensive repairs, and we've installed security lights outside Oak to make access safer and easier. There is also a new lock on the gate, but the code remains the same (3163). Behind the scenes, we are working on a new school website, which will go live in the coming weeks—watch this space!

### Preparing for Ofsted

Our school is now very much in the Ofsted window, and we are expecting the call any day now. Please note that Ofsted only calls on a Monday, and the inspection usually begins the following day. Inspectors will want to speak to parents, particularly at the start of the school day, to gather your views about the school. So many of you are positive and effusive about what we do, and we would love for you to share that with them.

A key change to inspections is that Ofsted no longer gives an overall single grade for the school. Instead, the report is presented as a summary of strengths and areas for development, often referred to as a "report card." This means parents will see clear information about how the school performs in different areas, such as quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, and leadership and management, rather than one headline grade. Inspectors will also look closely at safeguarding and how well children are supported. Your voice matters, and your feedback helps inspectors understand the strength of our school community.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mr Towers