



Summer Term

As always, we're looking forwards to a busy Summer term ahead. As you'll have noticed, the first half is remarkably short at just five weeks, and of course this weekend is the May Bank Holiday as well, so staff are well underway with preparing school reports for the children's forthcoming Annual Reviews. These are very important points in the year for each child and we are very grateful that you all value them, as is evident from feedback to questionnaires over past years. We will also be looking forwards to our annual Sports Day, at long last having access to the main school field. Our GC students, freshly back from a residential trip to Treyarnon Bay in Cornwall, will be busy planning this to capture the wonderful competitive, inclusive and fun atmosphere that they always do - we'll all have to wait and see what this year's theme turns out to be though!

Annual Reviews

Annual Reviews provide the point at which the class teacher for your child will draw together a summary of their progress with individual targets as well as what has been worked on and achieved within group work lessons across the curriculum. Equally importantly, a great deal of thought goes into the final part of the school report for the Annual Review, setting the Individual Education Plan targets for the next academic year. Each child is involved in reflecting on their own year as well, and of course, where appropriate, there will be additional reports from the different therapy services who work with us at the school. We greatly appreciate the attendance of parents and carers at these meetings, as they are such an important opportunity to discuss what your child has been working on and what is planned going forwards.

Sports Day

The GC students get involved in judging where Sports Day can best fit into the school calendar, as one of the tasks for planning the day, so we should be able to confirm the date for you in next month's newsletter. We are very proud of the work of our post-16 students who plan this for the whole school each year, and they have established a very successful format of rotating activities for various combinations of classes to work through, allowing them to give a fresh and exciting new theme on this framework each time. It is part of the students' timetable every Summer term to develop their ideas for the theme and to gather and make the necessary resources for it, along with being present on the day to guide everyone through each activity and to celebrate the outcomes at the end.

Trips and visits

With increasing pressures on families being able to afford residential trips and less and less scope for the school to step in and subsidise costs, I am very pleased that we have yet again managed to field a wonderful range of experiences for the children. So far, the 6th FG have been to the National Forest, 8th FG went to Brighton, 9th FG had a variety of trips including the Cotswold Wildlife Park and the Pitt Rivers Museum, 10th FG have been to Barcelona, and as mentioned, the GC are just back from Cornwall. Just around the corner, we also have 5th FG going to Cirencester, and 7th FG on an outward bound week at Yenworthy. All in all it's a tremendous range of experiences for the children. We're particularly pleased that a model has emerged for alternatives if a class find that the residential trip which we would have aimed for is too expensive. This still allows the children to have a period in their year when the focus switches to offsite learning and new or different activities that they can all experience together. We are also, of course, very grateful to the staff who voluntarily give up their time to make these trips possible, being away from their own families for up to four nights at a time and working 24 hours a day to ensure children's needs are met and they have a wonderful time.