



## **A New School Year**

The new academic year is now well underway. We are sure that it will be a year full of exciting experiences, opportunities and successes, as the children show us once again that they are capable of so much. However, over the course of the year to come we are also mindful that there are likely to be a number of challenges that school will need to face, including challenges that may also impact on you and your children.

The school's current funding situation is becoming increasingly problematic, and whilst the recent announcements made by Government give us cause for hope, political uncertainty means that there is a lack of clarity about what may or may not happen over the course of the next year. The school continues to operate at the limits of its capacity with all classes apart from the Assessment Nursery and The Griffiths Centre being full, and yet with more and more children in the local area needing access to the expertise that exists within the school.

As a school, we have always faced challenge with positivity, optimism and a belief that we, in partnership with you and our wider community, have the capability to ensure that we continue to offer an excellent educational experience to the children, irrespective of circumstances, acting at all times in their and your best interests. This year will be no different. We hope to build on the excellent OfSTED outcome by turning our attention to what we can do to build stronger relationships with the wider community of North Oxfordshire. The aim being that an excellent education should lead to excellent lives beyond school.

We continue to review, refine and improve what we do in school and certainly will not be resting on our laurels, with work being done to augment our approaches to developing communication skills and ensure that assessment and reporting systems are the best that they can be.

So, as ever, as we enter this new academic year with hope and a determination to tackle the challenges ahead. We look forward to what the year will bring.

## **Naming Clothing and Belongings**

Please can you ensure that all clothing, including PE kit, swimming kit, spare clothes and wellies, are clearly labelled with your child's name. It can often be very difficult for staff to recall which items belong to whom, especially when several look very similar. Please do not rely on the fact the staff will know. Classrooms are busy places and valuable time can be lost in trying to identify the owners of belongings, and things can easily go missing if not clearly marked with your child's name.



## **Transport Consultation**

We are very aware that issues associated with transport to school have been causing many of you pressure and stress. The Department for Education are currently consulting on a revised version of statutory guidance for local authorities on home to school travel and transport for children of compulsory school age (those aged 5 to 16) and there are references within the document relating to children with Education, Health and Care Plans and those with disabilities. If you are interesting in reading the proposed Government guidance and responding to the consultation, you can do so by going to the following website and clicking on the link for 'Home to school travel and transport': <https://consult.education.gov.uk>. The draft document can be found at the bottom of the page.