



Cranborne Middle School

A Specialist School

Headteacher: Mr C Watson
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs K Robertson



19 September 2011

Dear Parent / Carer,

Now that we have settled back into school life, I would like to welcome you all to the new academic year at Cranborne Middle School. A special welcome goes to parents who have children who are new to the school. Our team very much look forward to working in partnership with you and receiving your support to really ensure that your child benefits from all aspects of their experience at CMS.

We welcome on board some new staff members. Mr Hendren is our new caretaker, replacing Mr Hughes. He is already having a significant impact on improving our school environment. Miss Roumeas, French teacher, is with us for the autumn term until the return of Mrs McLaughlin from maternity leave in January. Finally, we have three new teaching assistants supporting a variety of pupils and assisting teachers with pupil learning in the classrooms. They are Mr Dyer, Mrs Spriggs and Miss Brown. I am confident that they will further enhance the skills of our team of teaching assistants who do so much to assist in achieving the high standards of teaching and learning in the school.

Congratulations go to three members of our teaching team who got married over the summer. Mr Lawford, just before we broke up for the summer break, Mr Lear and Miss Smith in August – not to each other! Miss Smith is now Mrs Cain.

The summer months have seen a large number of improvements:

- A new computer server, classroom computers and several data projectors have significantly improved the speed and quality of our hardware as well as the entire computer system.
- New flooring in our main building corridors.
- New drainage and tarmac in our courtyard where some new trees will be planted in November to create shade.
- Phase 2 of our window development programme has been completed.
- A new library computer system.

But, the most exciting news of all is the completion of the TRIM TRAIL. This is an outdoor activity course which has resulted from the excellent fundraising by the children, our PTA and your entrance fees to our school productions. Everyone has been involved in bringing this project to completion but a big thank you to the school's pupil voice committee who ensured that it happened this summer. Risk assessments and staff training are all currently in hand and once these have all been completed, children will be instructed on its safe usage.

Your child has a pupil planner. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with its contents. It contains a lot of information and can therefore be a very useful tool if your child uses it correctly. Don't forget that you can use it to write notes to the tutors or subject teachers. They can also be contacted by email – addresses are available on our website.

There have also been various letters and permission slips sent home during the first few days. If you haven't yet returned these, please do so by the middle of the week in order that we can ensure our records are up to date.

We are very keen to reduce our paper usage and will be using our email system to send letters where possible. Paper copies will be available for those who have expressed a desire to continue their communication in this way. Last year, just over 50% opted for electronic communication and we hope to increase this figure this year.

I would like to finish by thanking you in anticipation of your support as we work together to ensure your child has a great year at Cranborne Middle School. A date for your diary – Meet the Tutor on Tuesday 18 October from 3.30-8.30pm. A letter will follow very shortly which will enable you to make an appointment as well as the first newsletter of the year at the end of September. Are you a parent of a year 4 child or know someone who is? Our open day/evening details and a flyer can be found on our website – it will take place on Thursday 24 November.

Yours sincerely

C. Watson
Headteacher

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