

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Dear Parents

### Welcome to the New Academic Year

At the beginning of a new academic year, I extend a very warm welcome to you all. I extend a particular welcome to our new Year 5 parents and pupils and trust that this is the beginning of a positive four year partnership between home and school, to ensure that your child gets the best possible benefit from their time here at Etonbury – ***reaching their full potential.*** I would also like to thank you all of your efforts in ensuring that our pupils are so smartly turned out at the start of term and look forward to this standard being maintained throughout the year.

Education as we know is a partnership between home and school and of course, parents can help their children in many ways, with communication vitally important to our partnership. Communication is of course a two-way process, so please do not hesitate to **contact your child's form tutor if there are any concerns regarding the settling-in process over the next few days.** Your child's **Planner** is the ideal way to exchange information between home and school on an individual basis. We also use our **texting service** to contact individual or groups of parents to inform them of relevant issues. When you are telephoning the school, you will be given four options for dialling the relevant extension: **Pupil absence, Message for a member of staff, Pupil concern (Mrs McNamara or Mrs Whitley) or School office.** It is of course also necessary to send individual letters and information home on a regular basis and we try to ensure that all correspondence is delivered by 'pupil mail' on a Friday, so ***please check the school bag on a Friday night!***

Our newsletter (**ECHO**) is published approximately every three weeks and is perhaps the most important method of communicating school events with parents and the wider community. Our first issue this term is due to be published next Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September. The ECHO will also be available on our extensive website – **www.etonbury.com** which is currently being updated.

As the term is already underway, I would like to draw your attention to the following forthcoming events:

- ***Etonbury Association*** - Annual General Meeting ***Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm.***
- ***School Photographs*** - Our photographer will be in school on ***Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September*** to give you an opportunity to receive a lasting memento of your child's first few days in their new school or year group.
- ***Book Fair - Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September*** + an ideal opportunity to purchase additional reading material for the new term.
- ***Year 7 Duxford Trip – Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday October 6<sup>th</sup>.***
- ***Hello Evening – (meet your child's form tutor)*** The first of this year's parents' consultation meetings will be held on:

***Thursday 1st October - Yrs 5 & 6, 3.00 – 6.00pm***

***Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Yrs 7 & 8, 4.00 – 6.00pm***

This initial meeting will be as informal as possible, ***although private appointments can be requested,*** and is an ideal opportunity to meet your child's form tutor who is responsible for their day-to-day welfare and progress, at an early stage in the year, and put a face to a name.

Finally, I look forward to a very successful year and hope that all parents feel actively involved in the school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor if you have any concerns over the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely

Ian Mitchell  
Headteacher