

Friday 29th April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well here we are at the beginning of the Summer Term and we're really pleased that our new Assistant Head Lewis Sibbons has now joined the school and that Samantha Inwood Assistant Head has returned from leave. Furthermore, we had five new members of support staff join us from the beginning of this term, all of whom are very welcome.

This week it's been great to hear about the college day experiences of some of our older students, as they begin to get a taste for the world or work. I know that beauty and mechanical courses have been of interest and that students have been very positive about their time out to colleges.

Also really encouraging is seeing students who found it difficult to settle into school and activities when I first joined Forest Approach in February, but now are in a better place. Leaders and Teachers have done a good job in adapting the school's practices to suit the individual needs of learners, so that they are much more engaged and content.

This week we sadly have to say goodbye to Willow class' teacher Ben Jacovou who is leaving. We wish him well and thank him so much for all of his hard work. The new teacher in Willow Class will introduce herself on Tuesday to parents.

I'd like to please remind parents and carers about parent-school communication. In school we use the Arbor system which sends emails from school directly to parents/carers' email addresses. Parents and carers should be receiving at least one message a week. Some parents and carers, where their children are non-verbal communicators, expressed their concerns as the messages are not frequent enough for them to know about their children's learning in school, so we are asking teachers to be attentive to their wishes. In classes where there is the need for increased frequency of messages we may use Evidence for Learning in addition in order to communicate necessary information.

During the first week of the Summer Term, the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kirsten Jowett for the Lime Trust, spent a couple of days here at Forest Approach to find out more about the school and to make plans for the future. During her two days here she worked with members of our leadership team, senior members of Lime Trust as well as with our consultant Diane Rochford OBE. Of all eight schools in the Lime Trust, Forest Approach was the first to be visited by Kirsten after taking up her new role at the beginning of April. During the summer term the school will also be receiving support from Lime Trust Head Teacher Charlotte Whysall, in order to support the development of teaching and learning; and school plans for the new academic year.

As many of you will have noticed the refurbishment of the car park took place over the holiday which now not only looks really smart, but is much more user-friendly. In school we've had new flooring laid and the corridors are looking much better now. Even the office I share with James has been given a lick of paint to brighten it up.

Have a good Bank Holiday Monday and best wishes to you all. See you on Tuesday 3rd May.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Hadlow", written in a cursive style.

Geoff Hadlow - Interim Head Teacher

*"We Care, We Try, We Learn,  
We are all here at Forest Approach!"*