

5th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and enjoyed the summer break albeit with a mixed bag of weather.

As you know for the past few months Harrowbarrow school has been in the process of transferring to Bridge Schools. We were delighted to get final confirmation on 1st September that Harrowbarrow has become an integral and valued member of our amazing group of schools.

I would like to warmly welcome you and your children to Bridge Schools Trust and I hope that you are as excited as I am at the prospect of realising the opportunities that present themselves for your children being part of a wider collective.

Bridge Schools started in 2013, and we've grown to include 15 schools of all shapes and sizes across East Cornwall – some with as few as 26 children and some with over 400. This diversity and the way we work collaboratively gives us great strength. Whilst we all work closely together in terms of training, school improvement and opportunities for children, we recognise the importance for each and every school to retain their own character, reflecting their own local community. Please have a look at our Trust website if you have time: www.bridgeschools.co.uk We have worked hard over the years to bring about improvements for all of our schools, developing a track record of moving schools up to a strongly good position.

Over the coming weeks you will see a change to the school's website, and a few tweaks here and there but very much keeping the school's identity. Further communication regarding these updates will follow.

Staff across all the schools have been busily preparing for the beginning of the Autumn Term and completed in-service training (INSET) on Tuesday to prepare for the children's return yesterday. Thank you for ensuring the children have returned to school looking so smart in their uniforms. It can be tricky to find shoes and all the right sized clothing – especially when we know they will grow out of it so quickly! If you have struggled to obtain any part of your child's uniform and need any help, please contact the School Office. We don't use any branded uniform; we try hard to keep prices low to make it affordable for all our families.

Other news from around Bridge Schools - Copper Valley

We are also pleased to announce that Delaware and Gunnislake who are part of the Trust have now officially moved to become Copper Valley Infant and Nursery Academy, and Copper Valley Junior Academy. The name change arose to keep both schools viable, working together with one head teacher. There is a visible change across the schools and lovely to see the children in their new uniform with their new logo designed by one of the pupils.

Pupil Results

Formal assessments have taken place in EYFS, Year 1 phonics check, Year 2, Y4 multiplication tables test and Year 6 SATs. We are extremely proud of the children and staff as headline figures show the Trust is significantly higher than the national averages in many areas. Our continued aim is to ensure all children are where they need to be in the next 12 months, ready to move to their next phase.

Premises

It was a busy summer for the premises team and contractors to work through maintenance schedules in the school buildings, upgrading facilities across school sites. These improvements will certainly make a difference in all our schools for both children and staff. There were a number of upgrades and changes to Harrowbarrow's internet access.

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Home School Agreement/ Parental Consents

Please find attached a copy of the 24-25 Home School Agreement and Parent Consents. Please would you be kind enough to complete and return to the school office at your earliest convenience. Consents are to be completed for every child to enable them to have photos taken, watch PG films, attend local sporting events and access approved learning platforms etc. Please be aware that without consent your child will unfortunately not be able to participate in certain activities.

It is very important that we hold the most up-to-date information on our school systems, so please can you advise the school office if there have been any changes over the summer to yours or your child's information for us to amend our records. We also need to ensure we hold at least two contacts on your file in case of an emergency.

Thank you for your support as the Autumn Term begins, we have enjoyed welcoming the children back to school this week. We look forward to a successful first half term.

With all good wishes,
Adrian Massey and everyone in Bridge Schools