

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to be welcoming you back to GCA for academic year 22-23. Everyone in school is very excited for the year ahead. We wanted to take the opportunity to share with you some developments which have taken place over the summer holidays and also remind you of some upcoming events for this half-term.

## **Staffing**

As discussed in our July communication, we are really pleased to welcome Holly Turner to our teaching team. Holly will be teaching Elm class in Year 3. We would also like to welcome Sadie Gardner and Sarah Pegram to our staff as teaching assistants. Finally, we would also like to welcome Chloe Baker and Kara Kidd to our staff team. Chloe and Kara both join our admin team alongside Emma Dunkerley.

## **The School Building**

A number of areas within the school building and the grounds have received a make-over during the break.

We are delighted to announce that after a lot of hard work and a long wait, the 'cage' has been resurfaced and looks fantastic. The surface, which features markings for football, hockey and netball, will have a drastic impact on our PE provision, break and lunch times and also allows us to reconnect with a number of community groups through lettings. Mr Bakker announced at the end of last term that we would like to re-name the 'cage'. Suggestions should be brought to Mr Bakker or Miss Fielden by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September (a reminder will be given to the children during our whole school assembly tomorrow)

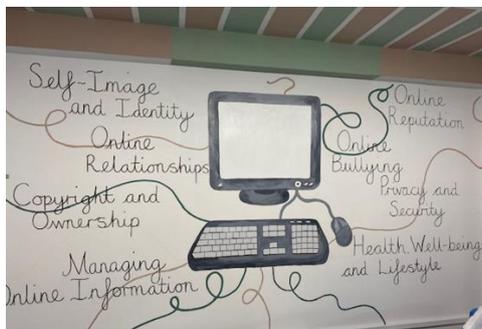


Additionally, the school now features a sensory room which has been specifically designed and created to meet the needs of some of our pupils with special educational needs. We are still awaiting a small amount of resource for this space but we are delighted that it can begin to be used from today. We are certain that this dedicated space will have long lasting impact on current and future pupils.



Godmanchester Community Academy is a part of ACES Academies Trust.

Mrs Hamilton and Mrs Smith have transformed the Computing Suite over the past few months to add colour and subject specific details to the space. The room looks fantastic and as well as being interesting and inviting it now also contains subject specific vocabulary and key messages linked to online safety.



Many of you will have noticed that the conifers which lined the Post Street entrance to school have been cut down. We had growing concerns about the trees after witnessing a number of cars backing into them whilst parking in the Nisa car park. We will now be working with the Eco-Committee and the ACES site team to re-develop this area. Barriers have been placed around the trees to keep people away from this area until it has been re-developed.



Finally, our PTA have bought the school a new sound system for the main hall which has been installed over the summer break. Many thanks to the PTA and all of the school community who have contributed to fundraisers over the past few years.

## Upcoming Events

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – 3.30pm- 5.00pm – Meet the Teacher.** We will once again be opening our doors next Monday to allow parents and carers to meet their child's new class teacher. During this event, there will also be an opportunity to meet the Co-Head Teachers, Mrs Stanley our SENDCo and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – afternoon – Year 5 Sketching in Godmanchester.** Year 5 pupils will be walking around the local area to make observational sketches of the river.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022- morning – Year 1 Library Visit.** Both Year 1 classes will be visiting Huntingdon Library.

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – all day – Individual School Photos.** More information regarding before school sibling photos (for siblings not attending GCA) will be sent out nearer the time.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022- all day – Year 3 Norman Day.** Year 3 pupils will be transported back in time to the Norman period of an immersive History experience.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – afternoon – Year 3 Sketching in Godmanchester.** Year 3 pupils will be visiting places in the local area to make observational sketches of landmarks and features of Godmanchester.

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022 –all day – Year 5 Space Centre Visit.** Year 5 pupils will be visiting the National Space Centre as part of their Science unit on Space.

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – all day – Flu Vaccinations.** More information will be e-mailed out ahead of time.



Miss Tess Fielden

Co-Head Teacher



Mr Richard Bakker

Co-Head Teacher