

**W**elcome back to everyone. We hope you had an enjoyable break and a good holiday if you managed to get away. The two school day trips to the seaside were well supported and appear to have been successful. Thanks are due to Joe for driving the coach on these outings. I was away for the first two weeks of the holiday and returned to find the summer holiday work well underway. The schedule of works was always going to be tight but we are reasonably close to normality for the start of term. You will hopefully have noted some of the work, in particular the rightfully striking addition to the front of the school – our new chapel facility. I would like to thank the contractor, HLL Services and Ivan Larkin in particular, for their endeavours in getting the chapel space completed in time for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations next Saturday. It is hoped that the Bishop will dedicate the area and we will then think carefully about fitting it out appropriately. My thanks to all those who have made contributions to the chapel fund and for those who may still wish to do so, it is not too late!! We look forward to bringing the area into use and I am confident parents will be pleased with the results of the work and the addition to the centre of our school. The term chapel is, in fact, incorrect for an area where the Blessed Sacrament is not reserved and it is proposed, therefore, to designate the area ‘The Oratory of Our Lady and St James the Great’. The term ‘Oratory’ meaning prayer area, which it is felt better reflects the wider use that will be given to the room.

You will also have seen that painters have been at work with our main gates, lampposts, fencing and garage block all presenting a fresh look that enhances the surroundings. Internally the junior corridor, lower junior cloakroom and Administration block are all refreshed with new paint and new carpet. Again the painting contractor, Greenwood UK, have done an excellent job in a relatively short space of time. My thanks also to Peter Byrne who gallantly worked around the contractors among his other work to get the carpet laid in time for the start of term.

A new medical room has been constructed to one end of our special needs room and will prove we feel to make good use of space in addition to operating in a better location. This will mean that after school club pupils and any other children waiting collection at the end of the day will now wait in the Assistant Headteachers’ room next to the staff room. You will appreciate that Reg Dodd, our Premises Manager, has had a very busy summer indeed with the normal servicing of school plant that also goes on at this time of the year. I would extend our thanks to him for all his hard work. He will now be on his break for the next two weeks and we wish him a well-earned rest.

Other items which are visible are the creation of the additional lamppost to the end of the car park which is being used to increase the lighting of the car park which I know has been an area of concern for some time particularly during the winter months. To further assist this the tree obstructing the light from the fourth lamppost has been cut down. In addition to which you will see the extension of the fixed play equipment, repairs to the infant equipment and new equipment for the Nursery. These will

benefit all the children but were only made possible by a substantial contribution of funding for these works from our Friends Association – many thanks. I am sure that it is appreciated that maintenance of a building such as our school is a major rolling programme. Clearly it is an area we must invest in and is one in which the Governors Premises Committee work very hard. I would thank the committee: Mr Gonsalves, Mr Palframan, Mr Berry, Fr Michael Jones and Mrs Cefai for all their work. It is hoped, subject to funding levels, that we will be able to undertake external redecoration of the building next year. Vandalism has also caused some problems over the break with nine windows broken and spates of graffiti. Again thanks to Reg Dodd for keeping on top of these incidents. We can now look forward to a good year in enhanced surroundings.

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#### WELCOME

I would formally welcome Miss Rebecca Hughes (R1) and Mrs Eileen Davis (1.1) to the school staff. We trust they will have a long and happy association with the school.

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#### CONGRATULATIONS – MARRIAGE

Congratulations to Miss Tamryn Walker on her marriage during the summer break. We welcome her back under her married name Mrs Scott Cree.

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#### CONGRATULATIONS – NEW BABY

I am able to confirm that Sally Nichols, one of our Nursery Nurses, has given birth to a baby girl, Alice. We send good wishes to mother and baby who are doing well.

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#### ANNUAL CALENDAR

The school's calendar will be issued with the next newsletter.

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#### SMARTIE TUBE COLLECTION – CHAPEL FUND

This will be run in the four weeks prior to the half term break – watch this space.

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#### APPEAL

If you have any old but useable school clothes including socks and underwear, please would you be kind enough to drop them into the office for use in situations where children need a change of clothes.

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#### CALL FOR HELPERS:

If you can spend some time, one hour a week upwards, to volunteer to help in classes or the Library please let Mrs Mascarenhas know for reading help and Mrs Day for Library help. Thank you.

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#### NEW MENU ATTACHED – Starting on Week One.

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#### 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

These are due to take place on Saturday next, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2001. I trust all families received our letter (posted in Dover thanks to the enveloping skills of our cubs and their leaders on camp) advising that school will be closed on Friday this week. **Choir children are requested to attend school on Friday between 9.15 and 10.30 am.** The children concerned have been advised separately. Children will, however, be expected to attend the celebrations on Saturday, **in winter uniform please**, (they may resume wearing summer uniform in school until the autumn half term as usual). The details of Saturday's arrangements are as follows:-

- Year 6 children acting as guides at 1.15 pm (assemble in your classroom)
- Choir children at 2.15 pm (assemble by the lower junior entrance to the front of the school)
- All other pupils at 2.40 pm (please go straight to the seating area for Mass)

The outline programme for the day is as follows:-

- 1.40 pm School open for visitors
- 2.30 pm Invited guests arrive and assemble in the Music Room
- 3.00 pm Mass in school grounds during which the area Bishop, the Right Reverend Howard Tripp VG will dedicate the chapel
- 4.15 pm Guest speakers and toast
- 4.45 pm Refreshments for all with entertainment for children