



## SHERBORNE QATAR

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010

Dear Parents

Before I embark on the huge, but very enjoyable task of reading just short of 300 reports I wanted to write to you to thank you for your support over our first year, to explain various projects that we are planning for the summer holidays and to let you know about some changes we have planned for next year.

As we have now been in operation for a year we have reviewed a number of our policies and procedures and have decided to implement some small changes which, I'm sure you will agree, will be beneficial to the pupils:

### Uniform

We have made some small changes to the school uniform and the updated uniform list is on the website. The main change is that children in Pre Prep will no longer need a blazer (although if they have one, they may continue to wear it for as long as it fits.)

Zaks is now producing a Sherborne Qatar rucksack to replace the P.E. bag. We hope this will be easier for children to carry around. The P.E. bag can still be purchased to keep swimming kit in.

We have also decided to introduce an optional fleece for children in all year groups to wear when the weather gets colder.

### Timetable

Again, there are to be only slight changes to the school day, but collection time is now 1400 for all pupils, unless they are staying to activities which will run from 1415 – 1515. (Giving time for a short break / snack period beforehand and also to change for activities if necessary). School opens at 0700 and children should go straight to their classrooms where their teacher will supervise them. Registration will take place from 0725 for Year 1 – Year 8 and at 0755 for Reception children. Children can arrive at any time from 0700 but must be in their classroom by registration. The number of periods and break times will stay the same for all children in Year 2 and above.

### The Playgrounds

We are delighted that soft flooring and shading for the playgrounds are due to arrive in mid-July. New play equipment has already arrived and will be erected once the flooring is in place and more ride on equipment is on its way from the UK.

### The Library

The Library is an important part of the school and is relocating to a more central area, on the first floor overlooking the atrium and many new books have been ordered and we hope will have arrived in time for the start of next term.

### The Music Rooms

The area previously housing the library is to be converted during the holiday to include individual music practice room, an ensemble room and a second teaching room. This will enable us to accommodate the increasing number of children who are taking individual music lessons and start to develop small groups and bands.

### School Bus

In September we will have our own Sherborne Qatar bus. This will be ideal for taking groups of children on trips and to activities but it also gives us the potential to arrange a drop off system for children staying for after school activities. More details will follow.

### Swimming Pool

We still hope to have our own pool built, but it is taking longer than expected to arrange everything. In the meantime, we have sourced a local pool for after school activities and we plan to offer swimming and lifesaving next year.

### Parents' Association

Thank you to the Parents' Association for their hard work this year, especially with the 'Making a Difference' campaign and we all wish Reinier Jessurun good luck as he embarks on his run around Qatar later this month – please keep safe, as we want you back in one piece next term. The Parents' Association are already working on welcome mornings for new families next term.

### Class teachers for next year

In your child's report envelope you will find a slip giving your child's probable teacher for next year. As we shall be continuing to test new applicants to the school during the summer there is a very small possibility that we may have to make a few alterations to the classes in order to keep the correct balance in each class, but we hope this will not be necessary.

### Changes in the Senior Curriculum

All the senior pupils in Years 6, 7 & 8 will be taught by specialist teachers from next year. They will have a form tutor who will be responsible for them pastorally and who they will see every morning for registration. Each Form will have two tutors, a man and a lady, each with responsibility for the boys and the girls respectively. Boys and girls will continue to be together for their lessons. All Qatari pupils are required to learn Arabic; non-Qatari Arabic speaking pupils will be able to choose to study either Arabic or French, all other pupils will learn French as a second language. After school activities will allow non native speakers to continue with Arabic if they wish and French for Arabic speakers will also be available as an after school activity.

### School Calendar

Next year we will be producing a termly calendar for parents which will include all major events for that term, we hope you will find it useful. The children will be issued with 'planners' which they will use to record much of their daily lives at Sherborne, but they will also become important methods of communication between home and school.

### Catering

We have recently trialled a third potential catering company to provide hot lunches at school. The food was tasted by staff, pupils and parents. The plans for equipping our kitchen are being completed and will be discussed at the next board meeting in October. It is important for us to get this right so we will be unlikely to start offering school lunches before January, but we are getting very close to achieving our goal of offering healthy lunches and an optional breakfast club.

### Class sizes and numbers for next year

In September we expect to have 550 pupils at Sherborne Qatar from Reception to Year 8. We have a maximum class size of 18 in Reception, rising gently each year to 24 from Year 5 upwards. We have not been using all our available classrooms this year and at the end of term the staff will be moving a lot of equipment and furniture around getting everything ready for next September.

### The School Magazine

The school magazine or Year Book is well under way, thanks mainly to the huge efforts of Mr Bentham, and he still hopes to have it ready for collection in October. The magazine includes an account of all the major events that have taken place this year and a pictorial record of each class within the school.

### Staff Changes

We have a number of new staff joining the school in September and there will be information on the new teachers available on the website very soon. We are sorry to say goodbye to the following members of staff who have worked so hard this year and they will be missed: Mr Bridgeman-Sutton, Miss Stewart, Miss Blair, Mrs Hope, Miss Sana and Mr Khaled. We wish them all good luck for the future.

Other staff changes for September: Mr Williams will be becoming Assistant Head, which will allow Mr Withey as Deputy Head, to concentrate on the Pastoral wellbeing of the children in the school. Mrs Moonesinghe will be Director of Studies, concerned with all matters relating to the academic curriculum. Mr Hudson, one of our new members of staff, will be Head of Seniors (Years 6, 7 and 8) whilst Mrs Williams will be Head of Juniors (Years 3, 4 and 5) and Mrs Hudson will be joining us as Head of Pre Prep. Our new Principal, Mr Peter Barton, will primarily be involved with matters concerning the new building development and we look forward to hearing about progress in this area over the coming months, allowing me to concentrate on my role as Headmaster of the Preparatory School.

Finally, I really do appreciate that there have been a few frustrations this year, whilst we are setting up our new school, but despite these difficulties, I would like to thank everybody for their tremendous support. As I said at Speech Day, we have achieved a great deal this year but we are all aware that there remains much to be accomplished over the next few years and we are excited about the new challenges ahead.

I wish you all a happy and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Kind regards

Mr Nick Prowse  
*Headmaster*