



MARKEATON PRIMARY
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To all Parents/Carers,

8.9.17

Welcome back to another school year at Markeaton; I hope you had a fun and relaxing Summer Holiday! Although the weather wasn't too kind in Derby, I have been hearing at lunchtime all about the fantastic places your children have been – I just wish we could get a bit of warm sun closer to home!

Well it has been a pretty special two days for our new starters in Reception. New uniform, new bookbags and lots of smiling faces greeted me on the gate yesterday and it seems like most of them have settled in already. Whether they realise they have to come back next week (my son thinks school has been completed after three days!) is another matter entirely! Having dropped my son Henry off for his first day on Tuesday I know what an anxious time it is, but please do remember that if you have any worries or concerns then there are plenty of people you can speak to in school; whether it be Miss Sidebottom, Mrs Smith, any of their team or me - the door is always open.

For everyone else in school it was also a new beginning, with most of them meeting their new teacher, being in their new classroom or even moving from the Infants to the Juniors. I managed to walk round the classes yesterday morning and I must comment on what a positive atmosphere there was around school. The children were engaged and clearly looking forward to the activities that had been planned. One that stood out in particular was making a 'Hope Creator' in KS2. This is something that the children had to design and build themselves with the intention of it helping them to aspire and become what they really want to be. This idea, among others, is inspired by a book called 'Rosie Revere' by Andrea Beaty. Please click on the link below to listen to the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=le3Fb9dbClk>

It is very much underpinned by a Growth Mindset way of thinking and as per last year we would like to celebrate our Growth Mindset approach to learning with another fun day. Last year it was International Dot Day and this year, with a date which will be confirmed for the last week of half term very shortly, we would like your child to consider what they want to be when they are older. Once they have decided we would like them to come dressed in the clothes that they would wear for that job. Please don't feel any pressure to go out and buy an astronaut suit, the emphasis is on the children being aspirational not who can create the best costume! As we have always said, and as I said in assembly on Thursday, whether it is solving a Maths problem, doing twenty kick-ups, making a lasagne or learning French the journey towards success will no doubt be filled with ups and downs and this is all part of learning. Failing at something or making a mistake is when our most powerful learning takes place...so never be too disheartened! If you get something wrong just try again – and again – and again! Here is another great video for you to watch:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/resources/parents-mentors-1/helping-your-child/v/you-can-learn-anything>

And finally, the Parent/Carer Questionnaires have been analysed and will be discussed in our annual Parent/Carer Forum (date to follow). Thank you again for completing these and I look forward to sharing the results.

Have a good weekend

Mr I. Johnson