



Sally Banfield
Headteacher

2nd September 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

I trust this message finds you well and that you have enjoyed a restful and restorative summer break. As we begin the new academic year, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all returning families and offer a special greeting to those joining our school community for the first time. We are delighted to have your children with us and look forward to supporting them in their educational journey.

Our staff remain committed to providing a high-quality learning experience within a safe, inclusive and respectful environment. We aim to foster our 3 values of compassion, resilience and respect for all our young people helping to develop a strong sense of community.

To support this, I would like to draw your attention to several key school policies and updates:

- * School Day Timings: Please note that the school day will now finish at 3:10pm from Monday to Thursday, and at 2:20pm on Fridays.
- * Mobile Phones: Our policy on this has not changed and the vast majority of students adhere to it very well. To reiterate; **ALL** students are required to hand in their mobile phones to their class tutor each morning upon arrival. This policy is in place to ensure a safe and focused learning environment. Students who fail to comply may pose a safeguarding concern, as unauthorised use of mobile devices can compromise the safety and privacy of others. We believe that all of our students have the right to learn in a non- disruptive mobile phone free environment, with no social media or external influences. Failure to hand in a mobile phone will be viewed as a serious breach of the school's behavior policy.
- * Uniform Expectations: Students are expected to wear the full school uniform correctly and with pride. Hoodies are not permitted as part of the school uniform and should not be worn as part of the school uniform during the school day. We appreciate that some students wear a hoodie as an extra warm clothing layer as a substitute for a coat. Hoodies must only be worn at break

and lunchtimes and 'hoods up' is not allowed. Adhering to the uniform policy helps promote a sense of belonging and supports a positive school culture for all our students.

- * Attendance: Regular and punctual attendance is essential for academic success and personal development. We ask that parents notify the school promptly in the event of absence and ensure that students arrive on time each day. Persistent lateness or unexplained absences will be followed up in accordance with our attendance procedures so we can support you accordingly.
- * Behaviour: We maintain high expectations for student conduct both in and out of the classroom. All students are expected to treat others with respect, follow school rules and contribute positively to the school community. Our behaviour policy is designed to support a safe and productive learning environment for all.
- * Social Media and External Incidents: We are increasingly aware of the impact that social media and incidents occurring outside of school can have on the wellbeing and behaviour of students within the school setting. We ask for your support in monitoring your child's online activity and encouraging responsible digital conduct. Any issues that arise outside of school but affect the safety, welfare or learning of students during the school day, will be addressed in line with our safeguarding and behaviour policies.

I emailed you, at the end of term, about our new school management information system, 'Arbor' and the details for the new Arbor Parent App. I am excited that this new system will allow you a 'one-stop' platform for everything you need to communicate and interact with school. This was important feedback from you when I first joined the school last year. If you sign up to the parent app with the information sent to you in July, you will be able to pay for dinners, view the school menu and see your child's timetable.

Combe Pafford greatly value the partnership between home and school and encourage open communication throughout the year. Please do download the Arbor app to help support this. Should you have any questions or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support and trust and I look forward to a successful, exciting and rewarding year ahead.

Yours sincerely



Sally Banfield
Headteacher