

18<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing, as we reach the start of the summer holidays, to reflect on the last academic year. I would also like to offer clarification on our position regarding changes to school policy.

As you will be aware, the school is now over-subscribed with 270 pupils joining the school in September. As a result of this, building work is being undertaken over the holidays to provide more classrooms. Alongside this, the 6<sup>th</sup> Form will move to the CLC building on the school grounds.

Over the year, a number of children have excelled in many areas of school life. Our pupils have achieved not only at a local level, but also nationally and internationally. This includes our children achieving top awards in dance, cricket, tennis and football.

I would like to thank parents who contributed to the OFSTED Parent View questionnaire. Your views of the school helped assure inspectors that the school continues to be a good provider. I am sure you will have read our report and be assured by what is reported by OFSTED.

Our production of "School of Rock" was a great success and enjoyed by the large number of children taking part. Many pupils have also completed the Forge Valley Pledge and have undertaken tasks to help develop their personal development. We have so many talented children at Forge Valley and many have performed this week in our annual ForgeFest.

I wrote to you earlier this week outlining our policy changes to uniform and mobile phones, and would like to offer further clarification on both.

Our changes to uniform do not increase the number of logoed items required. The policy, I believe, provides further clarity around trousers and skirts and how to access school approved uniform. At the same time, parents can source uniform from a variety of shops, as long as it meets the requirements of the policy. The introduction of tailored shorts during the summer months has been requested by both pupils and parents

Thank you to parents who acknowledge the difficulties that mobile phones cause schools. The school spends far too much time dealing with incidents of mobile phone use in school. I would however like to acknowledge and address parents' concerns about pupils' safety to and from school. I hope the following response to these concerns assures you of how the policy will be implemented and our commitment to pupil safety.

Pupils need to be free from the distraction and negative influences of a mobile phone whilst on the school site. The school will not seek to establish if a pupil has a mobile phone with them. The school will only confiscate a phone if it is seen or heard. If a child has a mobile phone switched off in their bag, the school will never intervene. I hope this assures parents who may be worried about their child's journey to and from school. This policy is committed to the view that pupils should be free from the distraction of mobile phones and the negative impact of social media. I hope the attached FAQs, provide further clarity to parents.

I hope you and your family have a wonderful summer and look forward to working with you in the next academic year. Tomorrow, 19<sup>th</sup> July, pupils will be dismissed from 12pm.

Yours faithfully,



Mr D Barrowclough  
Headteacher