



02 July 2009

Dear Parents

Here we are at the end of another successful year and the children should all feel really proud of their achievements. The staff and pupils, as well as you the parents, are all ready for a well-earned rest and I hope that the summer holidays provide just that.

Alongside the celebrations for a year well spent must come the inevitable farewells and there are a number of them this year.

First, we wish our Year 2 pupils all the best in their new schools. They are certainly ready for the new challenges which they will meet, but we hope that they will always have fond memories of life here at The Pelican. We love to see our 'alumni' whenever they have a moment to pop back for a visit, and do please remember to keep us up to date with your news.

I thought parents might be interested to see where our Year 2 pupils are moving on to:

Perse Prep	27
Perse Girls'	4
St Faith's	4
Emigrating	1

There is another goodbye to say: we wish Owain Williams well as he moves to The Heritage School and will look forward to hearing his news in the future too. In his place will come Isabella Izzard. She will join 1CB at the start of next term.

The last two weeks of term have been particularly action packed:

The Year 2 Production entitled 'The Blue Crystal', was performed in front of two very appreciative audiences and there was a wealth of talent on show. The children spoke, acted, sang and danced as to the manner born and many of the parents, as well as the staff, commented on how the children had grown in confidence since their first public Pelican performance, and this is certainly true. Bravo to the children of course, but also to their team of staff who worked so well together to adapt the script, dress, rehearse and generally produce a first class event.

The Reception Year's Garden Party was a very happy occasion for all. After beautifully prepared, and served, refreshments, the parents and friends were treated to enthusiastic singing of some new and other well loved songs by the children.

Children in **the Nursery** enjoyed the perfect end to their term by celebrating with a Beach Party. Cocktails, ice cream and lots of fun were the order of the day and the children looked after their guests beautifully. A memorable highlight was the final sing-a-long, when children and guests participated in the Hokey Cokey, with re-worked words: 'We're going to Reception.....'!

The Leavers' Party will take place after this letter goes to press. This event features two simultaneous parties - one for the adults and one for the children, thereby ensuring that a good time is had by all! It is always a most memorable conclusion to the current Year 2's time with us.

Other significant matters which deserve a mention here are:

1. The APP

The end of the year is a fitting time to formally and publicly thank the Association of Pelican Parents and in particular the Committee, who have done so much towards helping the school this year. The funds raised have been marvellous, but the on-going support in so many small, as well as large scale projects has been a source of encouragement to us and there cannot be many parents who have managed to avoid requests for assistance at some time during the year! At their final committee meeting of the year the members advised me that we were to receive a donation of £1,900 to be used to enhance school life. We now have the fantastic job of deciding how to spend it and I will let you know the outcome of our deliberations next term.

I am delighted to use this letter to publicise the APP's initiative which is to be held in support of **The World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support**. You are warmly invited to join us on Friday, 25 September at 9.00 a.m. so that we can support the work of this important charity.

2. Costs for the new academic year

I supply these for information

Early Start	4.45	per session
Late Stay - 3.15 - 4.30pm	8.30	per session
Late Stay - 3.15 - 5.30pm	10.95	per session
Late Stay - charge for late pick-up	30.00	Per child per session
Milk - full time	27.00	
Milk - part-time - Nursery older group	15.00	
Milk - part-time - Nursery younger group	11.00	
Fruit - full time	27.00	
Fruit - part-time - Nursery older group	15.00	
Fruit - part-time - Nursery younger group	11.00	

3. Next term - early diary notes

There will be a **new and used uniform sale** at school just before the start of term on Wednesday, 02 September between 11.00a.m. and 12 noon. Second hand uniform for sale should be brought to school during the holidays. It can be left by the front door or handed to Mr Wilson. **Please note that we only accept new logo uniform for sale.** Children may continue to wear uniform bearing the old logo until it wears out, but we no longer sell uniform which bears the old motif.

Whilst on the subject of uniform, I would like to bring a couple of related issues to the attention of parents.

Firstly, we are continually amazed at how much uniform is un-named. This is time consuming for the staff and can cause the children some distress too. Please ensure that all items are clearly named in an obvious place.

Secondly, we ask that sun hats are in school during the month of September and summer uniform may be worn, if wished, until the beginning of October.

Early Start and Late Stay will begin on the *second* day of term. To ensure that you get the places you require, especially for Early Start, it is recommended that you return the enclosed booking form during the holidays.

Our Wine and Welcome Evening is something for parents to look forward to as we begin the new academic year! It will take place on Thursday, 10 September, starting at 7.00p.m. The format provides the opportunity to enjoy an informal icebreaker drink as well as an information session delivered by each year group's teachers about the daily routines and expectations as the children settle into their new classes. Please mark your diaries now!

Piano lessons will commence during the week beginning Monday, 07 September. We will confirm the start date of the violin lessons when we know it, but this will not be known until early next term.

After School Activities will start (for Year 1 and 2 only) during the week beginning Monday, 14 September. Full details of the programme of activities will be circulated at the start of next term, but Year 1 have theirs on Tuesday and Year 2's take place on Wednesday, **which is a change of day for next year.**

I will be '**At Home**' for each year group and both Nursery classes during the week beginning 14 September. Dates and times will be published in the calendar, but this is an opportunity for you to come along and meet me informally over a cup of tea or coffee. Just come along to your year group's session - there is no need to pre-book!

4. Links with The Prep School

I am delighted that Mr Jones and I have been able to continue to arrange for two members of his staff to pay regular, weekly visits to The Pelican. Mrs Melanie Crichton-Maitland will be coming to teach French to all of the Year 1 and 2 classes separately. Mrs Julia Halbert (Year 3 teacher with responsibility for links with Pre-Preps) will be visiting Year 2.

5. SATs results

At The Pelican we participate in the same process which the maintained schools use for assessing the pupils' performance at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2). Government guidelines indicate that Level 2 should be considered as the average expectation for a Year 2 child. Our current Year 2 pupils have achieved the following results, which are excellent, and *well* above national percentages. It should be noted that the Writing SAT is widely acknowledged as being the most difficult test. It requires a very sophisticated style of writing which is more in line with expectations for Key Stage 2, or Year 3 and above, pupils' work. Our results compare very favourably in this SAT too.

The numbers are % of pupils achieving each level.

(W= working towards Level 1, Level 2 is divided for maths and English, with 2C being the lowest. Level 3 is the highest award possible for a Year 2 pupil.)

<i>LEVELS</i>	W	1	2C	2B	2A	3
Reading	0	0	0	0	19	81
Writing	0	0	0	33	50	17
Mathematics	0	0	0	6	19	75

Administration and Paperwork

a) Terms and Conditions

With this newsletter I include the latest revision of The Pelican Pre-Preparatory School Terms and Conditions for your information.

b) School Record Form

Please can you look very carefully at the enclosed information, check that it is correct, complete any missing data and return the form to school, even if there are no changes, on or before the first day of next term.

The new academic year's Directory will contain the following information:

- child's name
- parents' preferred name and surnames
- home telephone number
- home address
- email address

c) Milk and Fruit Form

Please return this by the beginning of term at the latest so that we can order accordingly.

d) Parking in the drive

With this letter you will find a form which asks you to give reasons as to why you would like a parking place in our drive to be reserved for you. We will make the allocations based on these returns and preference is given to expectant mothers, people with very young babies and parents/carers collecting several children. Mrs Norman will contact those parents who have been allocated a place, and the scheme will begin on Monday, 07 September. We allocate 9 cars per session.

6. Kiss and Ride

This will begin on the second morning of term. I will explain how this works in the first newsletter of next term for new parents.

7. Charitable Donations

As the table below shows we have collected a significant total over the year for charitable causes and I know that the various recipients are always most grateful. A big thank you for your generosity.

Date	Function	Amount	Charity
14.10.08	Harvest Festival	£696.16	SOS Children's Villages
14.11.08	Children in Need	£309.07	Children in Need
11.11.08	Yr 1 Christmas Performance	£267.49	Great Ormond Street Hospital
15.12.08	Christingle	£410.95	Children's Society
11.2.09	WOW Day	£581.76	SOS Children's Villages
13.3.09	Red Nose Day	£303.99	Red Nose Day
26.3.09	Reception Easter Performance	£150.21	SOS Children's Villages
22.5.09	Cambridge United Penalty Shoot Out	£800.00	Cambridge United Football in the Community
11.6.09	Head Back to School	£200.29	East Anglia Children's Hospices
26.6.09	Year 2 end of Year Play	£222.38	SOS Children's Villages
Total		£3942.30	

8. Personal Note

I would like to thank everyone for the many good wishes I have received since news of my retirement from The Pelican was made known. A year is a long time though, so it will be very much business as usual in the interim. There is plenty of time for my successor to be appointed and for a smooth transition to be put in place.

Several people have asked what my retirement plans are - I intend to reduce my golf handicap and to spend more time with my family, but I also plan to work as an educational consultant and mentor new Head Teachers and appraise others. I will also do some school inspections and develop my role as an advisor in the world of parenting skills.

9. Rob Wilson

I am sure that parents will be as delighted as we were to hear that Rob and his partner Kate are to be married later this year. Lovely news!

As we disperse for the summer I would like to thank all The Pelican staff: the teachers, teaching assistants, secretaries, caretaker, catering team and cleaners for their tireless commitment to our school; you the parents for continuing to support our work and of course the children, for making life such fun. They certainly deserve their holiday after working so hard all year!

My best wishes go to you all.

Kind regards

Mrs P Oates
Headmistress