



Victoria Bulletin



MESSAGE FROM MR SMITH

We are coming to the end of a very busy year, and there is much going on to get ready for the 'dawn of a new era' in September. Behind the scenes, some of you will know that we are working super hard to move school forward in so many ways. This year we have achieved so much, in very difficult circumstances, but there is still so much that we have to do if we are serious about being a 'Good' school. Being honest about it, this is a long journey and there is still much that requires improvement from the years prior to my arrival, only two or so years ago. Much of my time over the last 6 months has been about recruitment and assembling a team of people with the desired skillset, energy and resilience levels to last the whole journey and support the deep rooted cultural change we are going through. Rest assured that we are moving forward at pace and some of our recent improvements include:

- A new school library at both sites and opening the library at our Victoria Road Site to parents at the end of the day
- Heavily investing in Rapid Catch-Up Phonics intervention beyond Year 2 and buying new phonics books for the children to take home
- Inviting parents in for Mother's Day and Father's Day Lunch for the first time
- Maths Workshops for parents, led by Mr Preston and Mrs Crooks
- The setting up of a Parent Council body
- Opening school up in the holidays and before school so that the children have more opportunities to learn and catch-up on their learning
- Decoration of a number of areas at Victoria Road - heavily green and yellow to a more calm and professional white and grey
- A new Nursery facility at Victoria Road
- Recruitment of a number of new staff members to bring fresh ideas, energy and hope

I wish to thank you for your continued faith in us and for supporting the way forward. After some hard yards, September beckons, with a huge amount of optimism.

UPDATE

NEW SCHOOL NAME

Samuel Allsopp Primary and Nursery School – New from September 2024

As you will now be aware, from September our school will have a new identity. After months of consultation and liaison with parents, staff, children and the local authority, our name will be changed to **Samuel Allsopp Primary and Nursery School**.

As I have previously stated, the reason for the change is to signify a new start for us as a school and a new way of doing things. We want the wider areas of Burton-on-Trent to have changed perceptions about the type of school we are and the wonderful work we do. We are a two-site school, and currently each site is named differently. This is very confusing for parents and children. We also don't have any mention of our nursery in the current school name. Finally, I am passionate about giving all of our children and families the very best and delivering a culture of high ambition and high aspiration for all.

A new uniform has been designed in conjunction with the children and the parent council, and the grand reveal went really well! There is so much excitement about what school will look like in September. A number of parents have asked questions about the new uniform and when they will be able to purchase items. I can confirm that, as a school, the school has generously agreed to buy every current child of our school the following:

- 2 x new school sweatshirts/cardigans with the school's logo
- 1 x new school tie (Nursery children will be given a white polo shirt with the school's logo instead)

All pupils will have an important letter this week, containing their voucher code for their 'free' school uniform items – paid for by the school. Parents are to take this to My Uniform on Wellington Road over the summer months to claim their 'free' items. Any families not in the country will have their voucher codes emailed to them. In addition, all children will be given a 'free' school book bag courtesy of a sponsorship deal we have put in place is ISL Workwear. Every child will be given their new logo'd book bag in September, by their class teacher, and will they be expected to have it in school every day.

****Please note – Unless your child is in Year 6, no Rucksacks will be allowed in school from September.**

On the first week back of the new school year, we will be holding an **official 150th Birthday Party** for the community. This will take place on **Friday 6th September** and we will be holding a renaming ceremony and unveiling a new plaque in school. We also have a special guest of honour attending – none other than a Mr Jamie Allsopp – one of the descendants from Samuel Charles Allsopp! More information on this will follow in September!

Along with our new name, we also have a new vision and a new set of values. It can be quite easy to focus on what our own children can't do, or what they are not allowed to do. Being Samuel Allsopp Primary & Nursery School is about focusing on the 'positive' and discounting any reasons as to why things can't happen. If we are serious about improving as a school, and achieving higher standards to support the children and their future, then we need a 'glass half full' mentality. From next year, we treat every child the same and have high expectations for all, irrespective of ability, culture and length of time in the country. We support and nurture our children and 'find a way' to ensure that every child CAN. From September, we will be:

A PLACE WHERE CHILDREN CAN!

C = Communicate, Make a **Contribution**, hold a sense of **Community**

A = Have Ambition, Attend Always and **Aim High**

N = Never give up, Nurture and keep up with **National**



Samuel Allsopp
Primary & Nursery School

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK!

At the end of a school year, it is always common that some staff move on to new professional opportunities. It is often a testament to the experiences that our school has provided. At the end of the year we say a sad farewell to;

- Mrs Ali (Teaches in Y3 Dahl)
- Mrs Swann (Teaches in SLC)
- Mrs Coulthard (Teaches in SLC) – She is retiring after a long and successful career in many schools
- Miss Martin (albeit only temporarily) – She goes on Maternity Leave
- Mrs A-K (A One-to-One Teaching Assistant – She is ‘retiring’)
- Miss Mewis has already started her Maternity Leave and is enjoying time with her new daughter.
- Miss Leadbeater – Leaving our school after being ‘on supply’ for us over recent months

We wish all staff well in their new beginnings and hope they'll pay us a visit sometime.

In the coming days, we will announce our new staff team for September. We will be introducing many new teachers, TAs and Support Staff members to further enhance what we can offer to our children and families, as a school. Unavoidably, we have had a number of temporary teachers from a supply agency this year, so we look forward to recruiting some new permanent members of the team to really move school forward in the new year and delivery consistency

Watch this space.

LAWN PRIMARY SCHOOL VISIT

At the start of this term, 8 children came to visit our school from Lawn Primary School in Derby. Lawn Primary School is an *Outstanding* school and we invited them in to give us feedback on the work we have done to improve school, so far. The children of their school represented themselves really well and you could tell that they had worked hard over many years at school. Lawn Primary has been on its own improvement journey over recent years and they are now a high performing school. The children who visited were from the infants and the juniors and they gave us some really helpful comments on what we could do next. If you remember, we took a group of our children to Lawn Primary School, earlier in the year!

PARENT COUNCIL

This term, we have set up a Parent Council body to help ensure that the views and worries of parents are heard and then taken into consideration. It is also helpful to us in school as we can road-test our ideas and check the views of parents.

Mr Smith and Mrs Akhtar meet the council once a half-term and we have ensured that there is a representative from each year group. The job of a Parent Council Representative is to be the ‘eyes and ears’ and to support the children do a good job. Representatives work closely with the school and help to implement the things in order to make school better.

Take a look to see who is the representative for your year group:

- Becky – Ffion and Sapphire's mum Y3 & 6
- Emma – Ebony Rae's mum – Y4
- Alesha – Junayd's mum – Y3
- Kiran – Hareem and Maryam's mum Y3 & 6
- Saba – Dua's mum – Rec
- Beth – Ethan's mum – Y5

Contact these people if you wish to raise something or have any positive feedback. They will bring this to the next meeting. Alternatively email parentcouncil@victoria.staffs.sch.uk

COLLECTION NOMINATION FORMS

As you know, keeping your child safe and making sure go home with the right person is of paramount importance. Last year we introduced our authorised collection list, where by each parent was able to nominate up to 5 who, would be authorised to collect their children from school, using a pre-arranged password. The system proved really successful last year and this year, so we will continuing it into the next academic year.

We require all parents of children in Reception through to Year 5 classes to resubmit their forms, that have started to be sent home, with up to date names and telephone number and a suitable password. These forms can also be collected from the school office should you need to give us some new details.

Please can we remind parents that when selecting a password, that you do not use your child's name or your name as the password.

School staff will only release your child to individuals on the collection nomination forms, with the correct password. If anyone tries to collect who is not on the list, we will contact you before releasing your child. Your nominated people can be a relative, neighbour, friend, another parent at school, but we do ask they must a responsible adult of **at least 18 years of age** and have a telephone number and be able to provide your chosen password.

DATES FOR DIARY

Just a reminder of some dates for your diary -

- **Friday 19th July** - Year 6 Leavers Assembly
- **Friday 19th July** - LAST DAY OF TERM
- **Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September** - Inset Days (NO CHILDREN TO BE IN SCHOOL)
- **Wednesday 4th September** - Back to School
- **Friday 6th September** - our 150th Birthday Party - Samuel Allsopp Day!

NEW FACES

We welcome the following new faces into our school from September:

- Mrs F Buglass (Our new Assistant Headteacher and SENCO)
- Mrs S Springall (Year 2 Teacher)
- Miss D Lester (Year 5 Teacher)
- Mrs S Waddell (Year 2 Teacher)
- Miss I Hancox (Year 1 Teacher)
- Miss M Norton (EYFS/Nursery Teaching Assistant)
- Mrs S Kausar (One-to-One Teaching Assistant)

We are really proud of the hard work which has taken place to both attract and then recruit individuals who align with our new school vision and values, and who have the right skills to move school forward on the journey.

SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE

Leadership Team:

Mr L Smith – Headteacher over both school sites

Mrs H Keyworth Edwards – Deputy Headteacher at Victoria Road Site (2nd in charge)

Mrs J Simpson – Deputy Headteacher at Orchard Site (2nd in charge)

Mrs F Buglass – Assistant Headteacher & SENCO over both school sites (3rd in charge)

Mrs C Crooks – Leading Practitioner over both school sites

Mrs H Best – EYFS/Nursery Lead

School Uniform

If a child does not have the full correct school uniform, they will be asked to change into spare uniform held in school so they look part of the school community and part of Team Allsopp! We will contact parents when spare uniform is issued to your child. If this happens on a repetitive basis, parents will be called into a meeting so we can go over the expectations and offer any support which is needed. Part of this is in line with our Home-School Parent Agreement and our school Safeguarding Policy



Please note that children should NOT wear their PE kit to school on the day of their lesson. Children will be expected to wear full school uniform and change in school due to hygiene practices, safeguarding reasons, promotion of independence and health and safety. Should this not be the case, school will use its Behaviour Policy accordingly and contact parents to arrange a meeting

