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Headteacher: Mr Richard Healey



Thursday 20th July 2023

Dear parents/ carers,

It is the final week of the academic year and I have been reflecting on our achievements over the past 12 months, but also over the past 3 years that have got us to where we stand today - **"a school where children flourish."** (Ofsted, May 2023). Please find our full Ofsted inspection report here, which excellently captures so many of the strengths of IKB and the development areas that we are already actioning to ensure continued growth: <https://www.ikbschool.co.uk/uploads/files/ikb-ofsted-report-2023.pdf> - we are incredibly proud of the recognition received for our learning community! 'Every Child Achieves'.

Transition

Since Easter a priority throughout IKB Bright Sparks and IKB School has been transition and ensuring that all our children have the smoothest and strongest transitions to their new year groups in September. Whether it has been through our 'growing and changing' curriculum topics, meeting new teachers, spending extended time in new classrooms, our communal lunch times, following the life cycles of school caterpillars and chicks, attending parent/ carer information events or joining us for our IKB Summer Performing Arts concert, we hope that you and your children have all felt fully supported in preparation for the 2023-24 academic year. Knowledge organisers and class newsletters for the first term in September have been sent out this week and if you do have any further questions regarding your child's transition then please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.



The Blackdown Education Partnership (BEP)

As you are all aware, from September our school will move from The Castle Partnership Trust to The Blackdown Education Partnership, merging together with the Uffculme Academy Trust. This is an exciting time, providing the opportunity to enhance our educational provision, especially for our most vulnerable pupils and families. It also allows us to invest in wider opportunities for staff development and wellbeing, and to bolster our organisational resilience at a time when education is facing significant challenge. Our commitment within the BEP will be 'Belief in every child'. As part of the merger I have successfully applied and interviewed for the position of Executive Primary Lead for the BEP and I will be taking up this role from September. I will be remaining as Headteacher for both IKB and Orchard Grove, both of which I am very proud to lead. To add further leadership capacity within the two schools, in recent months the following roles have been developed to ensure that IKB and Orchard Grove continue to thrive and I am delighted that we are growing our own leaders within our schools and the Trust:

IKB Deputy Headteacher – Miss Nicola Fahy
IKB Disadvantaged Lead – Mrs Laura White
IKB Reception and Year 1 Phase Leader – Miss Kathryn Aldridge
IKB Year 2 and Year 3 Phase Leader – Mrs Helen Hitchin
IKB Bright Sparks Nursery Manager – Mrs Caz Herrod
Orchard Grove Lead Teacher – Miss Charley Woodley
IKB and Orchard Grove SENCo – Miss Claire Marney



