



Radnor House
— SEVENOAKS —
celebrating every individual

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have had a lovely summer break with your children. Whilst the summer holidays have taken on a completely different appearance than usual for many of us, with staycations replacing vacations or mad dashes to return to the UK before ever-changing COVID quarantine rules came into effect, I hope that your children are looking forward to seeing all of us as much as we are looking forward to seeing them! I can hardly believe what has happened in the period of time since I was offered my new role as Head of Prep School before lockdown was even announced in the UK. I have already been blown away by the fantastic team of staff in the Prep School, and I can tell you with absolute certainty that I find it hard to believe that any other school in the country could match their commitment to the children. Whether you are joining us for the first time this term or have been with the school for several years, I hope you will find this letter useful. There is a range of information contained within, but should you have any further questions or queries please do not hesitate to email or call Anna Harvey or Colette Whelan in the Prep School office who will be more than happy to help.

Term commences on Thursday 3 September and all children should arrive at school at the times allocated to their year group on the Prep School guidance which was attached to Mr Halliwell's communication yesterday. You will also have noted that at this present time, we are not offering any before and after school clubs, and wrap care is only available in the first instance for parents that are required to return to their place of work and are unable to do so without it. This must be pre-booked using the wrap care form sent yesterday by Mrs Lay. We expect the first day back to be very busy so please allow plenty of time for the school run. Prep staff will be available to receive the children from 8.00 am. If parents have more than one child, all children should be dropped off at the time allocated to the oldest child in the family group. Other than parents with pupils up to Year 1, the car park is strictly to be used as a drive-through and drop off facility only, and children must sanitise their hands and use the door into the school which has been allocated to their year group. It would be helpful if you could discuss these arrangements with your children in advance so that they are clear about the new arrangements, which are different in places from what happened when they returned to school in June. Unfortunately, no parents will be allowed into the Prep School for the foreseeable future due to our COVID restrictions, and pupils in Year 1 and below should be walked by their parent or carer to the Prep arch where they will be dropped off and escorted into their classroom by the Prep staff.

As you drive into school, you will not fail to notice some of our most impressive new developments which have taken place since the start of Lockdown. The new planting along the drive looks exquisite and the new astro pitch is begging to be played on! I do not doubt that the children in Miss Dale and Mrs Bliss' classes will also notice the lovely new carpets and lighting in the classrooms. There have also been many developments in the Senior School with a renovated locker corridor and the refurbishment of the Home Economics room to provide an additional large teaching room in addition to the refurbishment of the Art room. The Estates team have achieved a great deal, particularly when you consider that work was severely limited for some time during lockdown and we are very grateful to them.

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Combe Bank Drive Sundridge Sevenoaks Kent TN14 6AE

Telephone 01959 563720 **Website** www.radnor-sevenoaks.org **Email** enquiries@radnor-sevenoaks.org

Head Fraser Halliwell

You will be aware that I have been extremely fortunate to appoint two new members to my newly restructured Leadership Team in the Prep School. Mr Woodward has taken on the role of Director of Studies, and we welcome Ms Faye Green as Head of Pre Prep. Consequently, we will be spending some time this year as a teaching team analysing the curriculum provision across the Prep School and looking for every opportunity to ensure that the curriculum is exciting and innovative, particularly in the light of the varied new skills which many of the children have gained in subjects such as Computing during lockdown. Mr Woodward has introduced 'Knowledge Organisers' for each topic across the Prep from Reception up to assist the children with gaining a greater contextual understanding of where the topic they are studying links with the chronology of the world as well as introducing a range of key figures and key concepts covered within the topics themselves. I know that Mrs Deborah Spencer, who resumes her role as Deputy Head this year, will be leading the school's pastoral programme and completing some work with the children looking at developing our behavioural management in Prep further, which will be another exciting area to watch with interest. Mrs Bliss, our Assistant Head, Data Tracking and Monitoring is looking closely at our reporting structure this year to ensure that it is meeting the needs of you as parents and the children. We will all be focusing a great deal on the children's mental health, following what has been an unprecedented six months and I urge you to communicate with your child's class teacher, myself and Mrs Spencer if you or your child have any worries or concerns.

Additionally, I am delighted to welcome Mrs Rachel Barber as a part-time teacher in Year 2 and Miss Ghislaine Ouahyb as Curriculum Lead for MFL in the Prep. They are both experienced teachers and I look forward to seeing the skills that they will bring to our team. In other news, over Lockdown we sadly said goodbye to Mrs Annie McKenna our morning receptionist in the Prep Office, but we are delighted that Colette Whelan has joined us from the Senior School reception. I am sure that you and your children will make all of the new staff feel very welcome. I have been delighted by the warm wishes that I have received already.

You will be aware that Mrs Caitlin Hillary and Mrs Tina Williams are on maternity leave this year. Mrs Hillary and her husband welcomed Amelia Poppy as a sister to Isla in June and Mrs Williams and her husband look forward to the arrival of their third child in early September. We wish them all very many congratulations.

A full list of the uniform for this term can be found here (<https://www.radnor-sevenoaks.org/uniform>) and you are reminded that all children are allowed to wear summer uniform for this half term before reverting to winter uniform in the second half of this term. Trainers instead of shoes should be worn and blazers and ties should not be worn until further notice.

The annual calendar can be found on the school website here: <https://www.radnor-sevenoaks.org/school-information/calendar>.

Due to COVID restrictions, we are unable to run our usual 'Parent Seminar' at the end of the first week of term. We will, however, be looking to hold an online event within the first couple of weeks. It will be a chance to ensure that the children's class teachers have the opportunity to tell you specific things which are useful for you to know about their particular year group.

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Head David Paton MA

I am always available and you are welcome to book a meeting with me (emargrett@radnor-sevenoaks.org) to discuss any matter concerning school. Meetings with parents will be conducted online or on the telephone at present due to COVID restrictions, but please do not allow this to dissuade you from making a request.

I wish you and your children a very smooth return to school and I look forward to getting to know you in person, although in the first instance this is likely to be during drop off or collection in the carpark!

Yours faithfully,
Dr Emma Margrett
Head of Prep School

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