



Mendham Primary School & Nursery

Academy Head – Nicola Jones

Email: head.mendham@consortiumtrust.org.uk

<http://www.mendhamprimaryschool.org.uk>

4th September 2026

Dear Parents & Carers

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back to the new school year, a special welcome to our new pupils and their families joining us this term — we're delighted to have you as part of our school community. I trust that everyone had a good summer break and are refreshed and ready to start the year. I am also aware that this may not be the case for some. Please remember to update class teachers if your Summer has not been easy and your child may need a little more support than usual.

Over the summer the school building has been treated to a new roof over the atrium area. The old polycarbonate roof which made school very hot, cold or noisy depending on the weather has been removed and replaced with a solid construction featuring skylights which make the area feel calmer and brighter.

As we begin the new school year, I would like to remind parents that regular attendance at school is extremely important for every child's learning and development. We understand that a shift in routines after the extended summer break can be difficult however being in school every day helps children build strong foundations, while also developing confidence, social skills, and friendships. The school gate will continue to be open from 8.15am with children entering school with their classes at 8.30am to start their day.

In the coming days children will be allocated a new house group. There will be an overhaul to the house system which will see the current 4 house teams condensed into 3 with new house team names. With our small number of children only having 3 houses will mean larger teams giving a stronger identity and individual contributions will have a greater impact on overall house success, helping pupils feel their efforts are valued. Please see the attached poster for the new house names and colours.

Please remember that

- Celebration assemblies will now be weekly on a Friday morning at 8.45am. Parents of children who are receiving a certificate will be notified before the day. Through taking this approach, we are hopeful that more families will be able to support their children when they receive an award. It will also mean that parents can discuss the award with their child and, due to the overwhelming nature of a celebration assembly, prepare them if necessary. This approach is part of the adaptations we are making to ensure pupils with a variety of needs are catered for and the hall does not become overcrowded. Therefore, if the celebration becomes more overwhelming with a greater volume of adults we will review the situation again.



Small Schools – Huge Ambitions

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- As a trial parents will now receive one communication from school a week. Please be sure to read this weekly as it will contain key dates, information from the school office, class requests, educational visit information and any actions parents need to take.
- To support adequate staffing breakfast and afterschool club can now only be accessed through booking on the Arbor app by a parent. The exception will be for those parents paying with childcare vouchers. Please speak to Mrs Rogers.
- Please remember to do an annual review of your and your child's details on Arbor. Ensure that contact details are up to date and GDPR consents i.e. sharing of images and photo permissions, are up to date. We are also reviewing our practice in line with Benedicts law. Therefore, please also ensure that medical notes and conditions are up to date. In some cases this will then prompt us to complete an individual health care plan to ensure that your child is receiving the best quality care.

Finally, I would like to say how pleased I am to be your Headteacher. For those that are not aware I have worked at Mendham for 26 years, in various roles. Mendham, the building, staff, children and parents have remained special through these years, and I feel extremely privileged to now be leading the school. I will always try my best to make time to be out on the playground before and after school, so please do not hesitate to stop and speak to me.

Yours sincerely

Nikki Jones
Academy Head



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