



Dear Parents

We have reached the end of another fantastic year. As always, this term has been incredibly busy and we have enjoyed trips, concerts, matches, sports days and many other special events. Your boys have enjoyed numerous opportunities and you can be very proud of what they have achieved. I hope you have enjoyed keeping up with all the news through the weekly bulletins, Twitter and website news. We now have over 2000 followers on Twitter!

It certainly has been the hottest summer term that I can remember; we are all hoping that the fantastic weather continues through the school holidays.

Staff news

At the end of this term Mrs Needham will be beginning her maternity leave and we wish her all the very best as she prepares for the new arrival. To cover her maternity leave I have appointed Mrs Louise Miles, an experienced primary school teacher to teach English and Drama across the Prep department.

Mr Rylance our much loved Gap Student leaves us to undertake his PGCE at University. He has been a fantastic addition to the staff, he is already a gifted teacher and coach. The boys adore him. As a colleague, he has never shirked from work even when faced with jobs that no one else will do. He is utterly dependable and reliable and I am sure he will be a super all-round schoolmaster who will change the lives of many children.

Parent surveys

As you will be aware, both the Prep and Senior Schools have undertaken parental surveys throughout the year. Thank you to those parents who took the time to speak to the research company or to take the online survey. The results were hugely encouraging, supportive and fascinating. They highlight many strengths and will also help the school to develop further in many areas. Please find attached a summary of the Prep School results.

Academic Achievement

As many of you know three years ago the Prep School introduced a new Maths and English assessment scheme called PIRA (Progress in Reading Assessment) and PUMA (Progress Understanding Mathematics Assessment).

These tests have been bench marked with 10,000 children from all over the country; the results enable us to inform parents of their son's scores compared to the cohort average and the national average.

The table below shows the Median Average Standardised scores for Prep School pupils in English and Maths assessments during the 2017-2018 Academic Year. **The National Average is 100.**

	Prep 1		Prep 2		Prep 3		Prep 4	
	English	Maths	English	Maths	English	Maths	English	Maths
Christmas	107	109	117	118	115	118	114	120
Easter	109	119	119	119	116	119	115	122
Summer	113	124	121	120	118	121	127	130+

- The current Prep 4 are the strongest cohort for some years
- In the current Prep 4 year group 35 boys attained a Reading Age in excess of 12 years 6 months during the Summer Term
- 13 Prep 4 pupils in English and 31 Prep 4 pupils in Maths attained a Standardised score of 130+ in the end of year assessments (A score of 130 equates to 98th Centile of Normal Distribution curve)

The **current Prep 4** have completed 3 years of the new Prep School assessment programme following the decision to move away from SATs and the removal of National levels of attainment as part of the introduction of the New Primary Curriculum. The academic progress of the current Prep 4 over those 3 years is shown below:

Median Standardised Scores per term (**The National Average is 100**)

		English	Maths
2015/16	Christmas	112	111
	Easter	114	114
	Summer	115	115
2016/17	Christmas	114	118
	Easter	118	119
	Summer	118	121
2017/18	Christmas	114	120
	Easter	115	122
	Summer	127	130+

These results are very encouraging and are a fantastic reflection of how hard the boys have worked, how inspirational the teaching has been and how supportive parents are.

Prefects & Monitors

I am occasionally asked about the procedure for selecting Prep School officials. Towards the end of the summer term all the staff nominate Prep 3 boys to become Head Boys, Deputy Head Boys and Prefects. This group is usually added to during the academic year. There is a different team of Head Boy and Deputy Head Boys for each of the Christmas, Easter and Summer terms. All of the Prep 4 boys are asked if they would like to be monitors.

I would like to thank the boys who have been Prefects this year for all their hard work and congratulate the following boys who have been appointed for September 2018:

Head boy:	Ruudi Banister-Emmens
Deputy Head boy:	Wilson Morritt
Deputy Head boy:	Charlie Snow
Prefects:	
Seb Baldwin	Hugo Hurrell
Kieran Beck	Callum Kennedy
Zack Bedingfield	Leo Kyeremateng
Jack Benten	James Rodgers
Jonathan Burton	Charlie Roebuck
Harrison Hall	Danny Whiteland
Harvey Hall	Noah Wild

Breakfast Club

A healthy breakfast is available for boys arriving at school between 7.30 and 8.15 in the morning. From September 2018 the cost of breakfast club will be £2.75.

After School Clubs

We are delighted to be able to offer such a wide and varied programme of After School Clubs. In order for all these clubs to run as efficiently and safely as possible we appreciate help from parents in letting the office know in advance if their son is not able to attend a weekly meeting of his club. This is for registration purposes and to avoid confusion and doubt as to a pupil's whereabouts at the end of the day. Please also be aware that there will be no After School Clubs until the **second week of the term in September**, although After School Care will be running the first week of term.

Music & Drama

I am sure you enjoyed the Pre-Prep summer performance of 'A Right Royal Problem'. Many congratulations to all the boys for performing their lines, songs and dances so well. Well done also to the Brass Ensemble and Handbells group who took part in the Broomhill Festival Schools Concert and the Junior Jazz band and the String group (now named 'The Fellowship of the String') who performed at our Celebration and Prizegiving.

Many boys throughout the Prep School have taken ABRSM exams this term and have achieved fantastic results. The following boys have passed their grade exams in school this term:

Shoya Filianov	Piano	Grade 2
William Flowers	Saxophone	Grade 2
James Herrick	Trombone	Grade 2 (Distinction)
Ben Halsey	B Flat Cornet	Grade 3
Lucas Jordan	Double Bass	Grade 3 (Distinction)
Duncan MacColl	Trumpet	Grade 3 (Distinction)
Toby Peberdy	Violin	Grade 3
Alexander Portius	Piano	Grade 3 (Distinction)
Ruaridh Ramsay	Violin	Grade 3

Sport

Cricket at the Prep School goes from strength to strength with the boys 'punching far above their weight' in terms of outstanding performances and number of boys taking part in matches. Huge congratulations to the Under 11 A team for achieving a perfect season winning all 8 of their matches.

The depth of cricketing talent is exemplified by the selection of a record number of boys for district or county teams. This year the totals are as follows:

- 1 boy in the U11A Yorkshire team
- 1 boy in the U10B Nottinghamshire team
- 2 boys in the U11 South Yorkshire team
- 2 boys in the U10 South Yorkshire team
- 5 boys in the U9 South Yorkshire team

Such high standards are not easily achieved and I am very grateful to the team of teachers and coaches who go the extra mile to ensure boys of all abilities have numerous opportunities. Very few schools are able to provide ECB Level 2 coaches to accompany 'C' teams.

Sports days for both Pre-Prep and Sports Days were very successful and happy occasions and at the Prep event, 2 school records were broken.

Charities

This year, the Prep School has joined together with Senior School in raising funds for the Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity. Together we have raised over £30,000 for the Hospital to support the resourcing of one of the hospital bedrooms in the newly built wing of the hospital. These funds will help all users of the bedroom have a more comfortable experience during somewhat difficult circumstances.

As part of our fund raising, the Christmas Charities Fair, full of all the traditional favourites, raised a terrific £1557.80. I am sure everyone will remember for a long time the appearance of Mr Pancake Man. This total supported the Children's Hospital Christmas Snowflake appeal.

The termly Charities Weeks have continued to add encouraging totals to the final pot, as did the Prep boys appearance at the 24-hour Sponsored football event, staged in the Senior School Sports Hall. Prep 3 and 4 boys and some aged Prep Staff put in a 3 hour shift as part of this fantastic event, whilst Pre-Prep staged their own mini-marathon.

A new initiative this year was the Prep 4 Enterprise charity afternoon, which created a lovely atmosphere of fun and friendship amongst all age groups, as well as realising over £400 for the school charity.

The Prep School have also supported annual National initiatives like Children In Need and Comic Relief, as well as International projects such as the 141 shoeboxes that were sent to Operation Christmas Child. This figure constitutes a resurgence in the amount of boxes sent. It would be great to see this figure climb again next year.

A very big thank you to all pupils, staff and parents for your continued support of our charitable giving. We are very much a community that puts others first and we really do make a difference.

And finally...

As we complete another school year, I am pleased to report that the Prep School community is in great heart and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the boys who are moving on at the end of the year and thank them for all their efforts in so many areas of school life. We wish them every blessing as they settle in to their new schools.

Thank you for all your support throughout this year; I do hope you all have a happy, safe and sunny holiday.

Yours sincerely



Chris Burch
Head of the Prep School