



# Families' Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 12 September 2022

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Families

A few hours ago I wrote a message for this week's bulletin that celebrated our first week back after the summer break. After getting home from work this evening, learning of the news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, I also feel it is an opportunity to acknowledge her passing and begin the discussion around her life, her reign and her impact over 70 years.

Whatever one's views are on having a Royal family, few can argue against the values she has personified during that 70 year reign. Our nation, alongside others within the Commonwealth and around the globe will now understandably enter a period of mourning. As a school, I believe it is important that we take this opportunity to educate our students about her life, her incredible commitment to service, her resilience and other key values that she has modelled and held true to for so long.

This comes in a week where we have launched our own set of Sackville values. They have been developed through discussion with students, staff and governors and will be used with students in assemblies and around school to help them grow and develop into responsible citizens, who go on to lead happy and fulfilling lives long after they leave us.

Our 9 values are: Positivity; Ambition; Community; Teamwork; Inclusivity; Curiosity; Resilience; Equality and Honesty.

On that note I will leave you with a quote from Queen Elizabeth II herself, "**We all need to get the balance right between action and reflection. With so many distractions it is easy to forget to pause and take stock**". I will be taking this weekend to reflect on the marvellous start our new Year 7 and Year 12 students have made in the school and seeing the students come back from the summer engaged in their learning as I walk through the corridors and look forward to the year ahead.

I wish you all a pleasant weekend.

Jo Meloni



## Safeguarding

### Snapchat

For many of us, we see our online lives and offline lives as different, but children are growing up with technology and the internet and for them there isn't a difference; online life and offline life is just life.

However, technology can move at an extraordinarily fast pace. The online world is constantly changing and it can be difficult to keep on top of the latest apps and platforms young people are using.

Snapchat is an app that your child is likely to be familiar with and I would advise that you take a look at the Fact Sheet provided by "the Key " on this app.

You can access the Fact Sheet [HERE](#).

## Key Dates

Friday 16 September	Year 10 Geography London Trip <b>(POSTPONED)</b>
Tuesday 20 September	Year 11 Geography London Trip <b>(POSTPONED)</b>
Thursday 22 September	Open Day
Friday 23 September	INSET Day
Friday 23 September	Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice Expedition
Tuesday 27 September	Year 7 Interform Sports
Thursday 29 September	Year 11 Consultation Evening
Wednesday 5 October	Observatory Evening – 7.00pm-9.00pm
Friday 7 October	Year 7 Science Enrichment Trip

Remember you can see the full parents' calendar [here](#)

## Hannah Nibloe writes:

After the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, it is likely that we will enter a period of national mourning. During this time, it is also likely that there will be a strong emotional response throughout the nation. I wanted to take this opportunity to explain how children develop their concept of grief or loss.

When children are aged between 5 and 7, they have very little concept of death. To most, it will seem temporary and they will not, at this age, understand the permanence of someone's death. Children at this age may see death as something that can be overcome or that time will fix or resolve. When children are in this developmental stage they may say things to adults that may seem insensitive, such as, enquiring when they will see the deceased person again. Children this age may not understand other people's reactions to the passing of the individual.

When children are aged between 8 to 12 years they are in their middle childhood stage. It is usually then that children start to show curiosity about the concept of death, it is worth noting that some children may start earlier. In this stage of life, we start to develop an understanding that bodies stop working when someone dies and may start to link this to what happens after death. Children may have a lot of questions about death during this time, if they do, it is helpful to them if you can engage in this conversation with your children. These children are likely to notice the impact of national mourning on others and the impact this may have on their day-to-day routine and life. They may ask questions to understand how we are all affected differently emotionally and for some of us this is an emotional response to someone we have never met.

During adolescence, young people develop a more mature concept of death and will almost have an adult understanding of it. They may link the Queen's death to their own mortality or that of those they love. They may need to process this through conversation with you and those they feel closest to.

I also want to note that when we experience loss this can take us back to previous losses we have experienced in our life. During this unique time of change and loss make sure to look after yourself and those you care most about.

Hannah

**Young Epilepsy** | **St Piers School & College**

**Sunday 25 September 2022**

**St Piers Lane, Lingfield**

**5k, 10k or 500m fun run/walk**

All ages and abilities can take part.  
Join us after with food and craft stalls to celebrate 125 years of St Piers.

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