



We welcome our new students and staff as we embark upon a new school year. This term is the longest and by far the most important. Almost fifteen weeks of uninterrupted work take us through to Christmas – so it is essential that students start as they mean to carry on. High aspirations, good organisation and hard work will ensure firm foundations for ultimate success. We recognise and appreciate the support of parents in ensuring good attendance, punctuality, smart appearance and the provision of space and time for homeworks.

New Pupils

We have one hundred and fourteen boys in Y7 who join us from fifty-eight different primary schools. The new L6th has one hundred and twenty-seven students of whom fifty-one join us from other secondary schools. Thirty-nine of the L6th are girls, giving us a total of seventy-seven girls in our 6th Form of two hundred and fifty eight students. Total pupil numbers are eight hundred and twenty-two (compared with eight hundred and twenty in September 2006).



NewsREEL



We are delighted to welcome to our staff:

Mr. Morgan, Deputy Headmaster, who joins us from the Royal Latin School, Buckingham. Mr. Morgan teaches Geography and R.E.. He has responsibility for KS3 (Mr. Carter has moved to KS4).

Mrs. Hanson, teaching German, joins us from Blenheim School, Epsom, Surrey.

Just before the summer holidays started we were pleased to welcome **Mr. Young** as our new Site Manager.

Supervised Homework

We are organising 'supervised homework' after school, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm., every day in the library. This is available for all pupils who may wish to use the facility together with pupils who have difficulty completing homeworks. If a pupil fails to do a homework his/her teacher may instruct them to complete it under supervision – the pupil will be issued with a written reminder so that parents have a day's notice.

Homework is a vital part of the education we provide. Pupils whose effort in homework is weak invariably under-perform in examinations. Hence our staff are giving up their time to provide this additional support for pupils who are unable to complete homeworks satisfactorily. I hope that parents will understand and support us if their son is required to attend.

Buildings

Every summer is a busy time at school for maintenance and development of our learning environment. The main task this summer was refurbishment of the toilets – they had become rather dated but are now much brighter and modern in appearance. We have a rolling programme of laboratory up-grading, it was the turn of one of the Biology Labs to be renovated in the holidays. An additional storage block has been built onto the Sports Hall. The aged cycle racks and shelters have been replaced by a new purpose-built structure. Interactive whiteboards are a boon to teaching, they have now been installed in most rooms.

Classics students will be giving a performance of 'Antigone' on Monday, 15 October in the school hall from 7:30 pm. This is a modern version of Sophocle's powerful tragedy. Tickets are available for £2.50.

Call reception desk for availability.

CAN YOU HELP?

**We need to borrow following items over 5 days (11-15 Oct):
A vertical standing loom (not too big); a pair of handcuffs;
3 black leather jackets; 3 x black leather biker boots.**



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Australia Rugby Tour 2007

The U17 Rugby Tour of Queensland and New South Wales was a great success both on and off the field.

The 1st team were outstanding and went through the Tour unbeaten, winning all four of their matches including a hard fought victory by 8 - 5 against a strong Sydney District side.

The 2nds also played extremely well and won three of their four matches. Their only defeat was against a powerful 1st XV from Hunter Valley Grammar School. In total an impressive two-hundred and two points were scored and just fifty-six conceded.

The squad also enjoyed a number of other experiences including the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge climb, Jet-Boating in Sydney Harbour, a trip up the Sydney Tower [the City's tallest building], visits to a Koala and Reptile Park, a visit to both the Telstra Stadium where 'Johnny' dropped 'that goal' and the Sydney Aquatic Centre and an End-of-Tour Presentation Dinner on a floating restaurant [the 'Steyne'] in Darling Harbour.

Results

1st XV

All Saints Anglican School 0 STRS 33
 John Paul College 7 STRS 36
 Merewether HS 14 STRS 18
 Hills District XV 5 STRS 8

2nd XV

All Saints Anglican School 0 STRS 34
 John Paul College 0 STRS 35
 Hunter Valley GS 1st XV 25 STRS 14



End of term

We were delighted to welcome to our final assembly Jackson Thompson, a batsman from Gloucestershire County Cricket Club, who presented colours, cups and certificates.

Amongst the cups presented were those for the final House events of 2006/07. The year of inter-House competition was rounded off with House Cricket, won by Westgate. This completed a spectacular run-in which saw Westgate pip Eastgate by just half a point to win the Cock House Trophy. Southgate finished third followed by Northgate.

TESCO

The Sports Department are once again collecting vouchers for school equipment for the coming year. Please leave them at Reception or post them in the box provided in the School Foyer.

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Your Hall this Summer

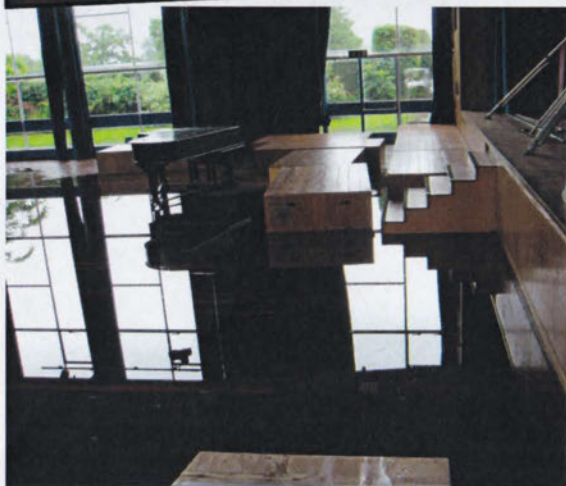
By 1:00 pm on 21st July the school hall went silent as the last of the pupils left for a well earned summer break. The following week the contractors were due in to sand the floor and re-seal the floor, which had rippled after forty-three years of wear and tear. Little did we suspect the transformation that would take place in the following few hours.

No one will forget the 20th July for years to come – nor will I. The path between the hall and the bowling green started to fill with water – no worries (see Aussie tour party for translation of this expression) I thought the drains would take the rising water away and Gloucestershire County Council had forecast that the worst of the weather would be over by 4:30 pm. Not true!! About 4:00 pm the cleaners reported a small puddle of water on the floor which we duly mopped up. Then we noticed that the water was seeping up through the wooden floor in a number of places – a considerable number of places!!

When it finally dawned on me that I possessed the same qualities as King Canute I got the camera out and then went home. The pictures tell their own story. Needless to say no sanding or renovation was possible.

Then on 1st September a further transformation took place. The school hall was used for a large wedding celebration party and from what was a previous disaster area, evolved a setting befitting a celebrity wedding. The work originally planned for the summer holiday will now take place over the weekend of 13/14th October and over the half term.

R M B Burns



NewsREEL

Floods

What a way to end the summer term, non-stop torrential rain throughout the final Friday. Just as well we weren't back to school on Monday. However our Sports Centre was fully booked through the holidays – and amazingly remained open and operational, the popular, daily sports development programmes for local youngsters ran as planned.

Despite the lack of running water, health and hygiene considerations were addressed and actioned to ensure a safe and acceptable environment in which all participants could enjoy their chosen activity. Parents in particular were grateful for our efforts and the delivery of all planned courses despite road closures, transport difficulties and associated major disruption.

Our thanks to Mr. Barton and his sports staff. Mr. Barton even participated in a live radio broadcast for national Irish radio in respect of the chaos and destruction caused by the unprecedented floods. He donated his unexpected fee to the local flood fund.

Classic Events

Classic students have a busy term ahead: a workshop on Aeschylus's 'Agamemnon' and Sophocles' 'Electra' has been arranged in Hereford at 5:00pm on Friday, 28th September followed by a performance of Aristophanes 'Clouds'. On October 9th we are off to Cambridge for a lecture and lunch at the University followed by a performance of Euripides 'Medea' and, on Saturday October 13th there is a production of Seamus Heaney's Translation of Sophocles 'Antigone'. On the following Monday, October 15th, our students will be performing a twentieth century version of this play by Jean Anouilh. Then on Thursday, November 15th, we shall all be going to Monmouth School for a day's lectures on Classics, meanwhile we wait to hear from Sovereign Education confirming dates of their excellent day's lectures in London.

C I Roberts



'Mission to Mars' Science Summer School 2007

On 31st August and 3rd September, just before the start of term, forty-seven students took part in the STRS Mission to Mars (aka Science Summer School). Ms Prinsep, Mr Haynes, Miss Adamson and Mr Woolf, helped by **Joe Lowe, Paul Gorman** and **Chris Parry**, supervised a variety of fun and exciting science activities. Mrs Chapman, Mr French and Mr Boon, our team of wonderful lab technicians supported the event by organising all the necessary resources for the activities.



On the first day the students made aliens from green slime, built scale models of living quarters that could be used for survival on Mars and designed badges to celebrate the Mission. It was all great fun and the aliens proved to be most popular. The best badge designs were rewarded with a mug bearing the design, and there were prizes for the best alien and the best building.

On the second day the students undertook three challenges. They made rockets (a repeat of last year's successful and very popular activity), with a prize for the one that travelled the furthest. They made landers to safely deposit a fresh egg on the ground, having been dropped from a great height. A prize was awarded to the team that successfully completed the challenge with minimum resources. And finally they made solar powered ovens from pizza boxes with the hope that they would be able to cook beaten egg but unfortunately the weather wasn't on our side. This was another fantastic day and it was great to see so much enthusiasm and teamwork.



Once again, Summer School was a huge success – the students told us how much they had enjoyed it! No one went home empty handed as all of the participants received a pack of NASA astronaut ice cream and a T-shirt.

**Where will you be next year? ...
when we're having fun!**

NewsREEL



Milestones Assistants

11 A's at 'A' level shared between three volunteers who gave 640 hours to less fortunate children.

Three of our 6th formers added so much to the lives of the children of Milestones in Longlevens. They gave up time each week to help teachers and students at the school every Wednesday afternoon over a period of two years. Teachers at the school were so impressed with the initiative, hard work and commitment by these students that they were even compared to the student teachers from Gloucester University and yet Emma, Stacey and Micheal hadn't completed their 'A' Levels. Now the results seem to highlight the message that what you give you get back many times over. The three students were awarded 11 A grades, two Bs and a C. Congratulations.



Top: Emma Byett, Stacey Morgan and above, Michael Duxbury.

Examinations

GCSE

The one hundred and eleven boys in Y11 achieved a pass rate of 94.5%, the average number of passes at grade C+ was 9.45 per pupil. 53.5% of all entries gained grades A and A*. 68 boys each gained five or more passes at A and A*; twelve boys each gained eleven passes all at A and A*. The overall points score (based on A*=58, A=52, B=46, etc.) was four hundred and eighty-eight, equivalent to over nine grade A passes per pupil.

The thirty Y10 boys who took their Mathematics GCSE a year early all passed at grades A/A*. The R.S. GCSE short-course examination, also taken at the end of Y10, had a 100% pass rate, 60% at grades A/A*.

Thirteen Y9 boys took GCSE Geology following a year of lessons held by Mr. Green and Mr. Carter during lunch breaks – all passed at grade B and above.

'AS' Level

Our one hundred and thirty-two L6th students achieved a pass rate of 96.9% in their 'AS' examinations, 59% at grades A and B. Three quarters of the Year each achieved at least one grade A, almost half gained two or more grade As including nine students who each gained four A grades.

'A' Level

We had one hundred and nineteen students in our U6th, their pass rate was 99.7% with 61.9% at grades A and B. The average number of passes per student was 3.8. The average UCAS points score per candidate (based on grade A=120, B=100, C=80....) was 396.3, equivalent to two As and two Cs per student.



We have a number of Collins Easy Learning French, German and Spanish Dictionaries for sale. These are the latest (2007) edition and retail at £8.99

Copies can be bought from the School Library for only £7.50 A small number of earlier editions are available at £4

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Göttingen Exchange 2007

Our return visit to Göttingen took place in July, just before the beginning of the summer holidays. Twenty boys from Y10 and 20 girls from the High school travelled to Göttingen, Germany to stay with their exchange partners and their families. Our pupils enjoyed the warm welcome and some hot weather. The official programme included exciting excursions to the zoo and city of Hannover on one day, whilst another day was put aside for visiting the centre of Berlin, including the recently-restored Parliament building, the "Reichstag". Our pupils occupied their free time with their partners in such pursuits as going to the cinema, shopping and swimming in the open

air pool. The success of the trip was clear by how sad everyone was to leave, although some have already made plans to return to Göttingen.

Here are some extracts from the pupils' diaries:

"The family was very generous with the food they gave me. German food is very different from what we eat in England; I think it is healthier. But the Currywurst is yummy."

"Our trip to Berlin was great. First we went to the Reichstag and we had to queue for hours to get in, but the view from the dome on the roof of the building was fantastic and the toilets were very somewhat original!"

B Testoni-Ranken

NewsREEL



Toyota Challenge

Technology Club will shortly be starting again this term. This year there will be two groups. Y8 students carrying on from last year will be taking the Programmable Buggy challenge for the Toyota Challenge and a Y7 group will compete for the Solar Powered Car challenge. A preliminary lunchtime meeting will discuss which day suits best for running the club after school.

S James/S Hancock



International School Award 2007-2010

International Schools' Award

During the last academic year the school has undertaken a large number of international activities to stimulate awareness of other cultures and prepare pupils for life in a global society and economy. Visits abroad, international events, curriculum-based activities and collaborative work with partner schools have enriched the curriculum for pupils throughout the school. This commitment to the importance of the international dimension at STRS has been recognized by the DCSF and we have secured the prestigious International Schools' Award. Many thanks to all the staff and pupils who have contributed to this success.

Evening Classes

Sir Thomas Rich's is keen to develop its range of evening language courses. If you are interested in learning a new language, refreshing or extending your knowledge of an existing language, please get in touch with Mrs J. Hewett: 01452 338405 or e-mail: jackyhewett@strs.org.uk

Language Clubs

In the past pupils have had the possibility of learning Polish, Mandarin Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese and Esperanto in lunchtime or after school clubs. If you are interested in learning a new language, please see Mrs Hewett as soon as possible.

European Citizenship

Congratulations to **James Bell** and **Jordan Wynn** on their essays 'European Citizenship'. These have been translated into Esperanto and sent to our project partners in Italy, Bulgaria, Spain and Lithuania. Both boys will receive W H Smith vouchers.



Comenius Photo Competition

Did you visit any interesting places in the EU this Summer? Why not enter a photograph in the Comenius Photograph Competition and have the chance to win a cash prize?

Entries should be submitted to Mrs Austin, Administration Secretary, julieaustin@strs.org.uk

Closing date: 20th September, 2007

J Hewett

Congratulations to:

Abdel-Rahman Afifi

who gained an A* in his GCSE Arabic this Summer.

J Hewett, Language College Co-ordinator

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Arts Experience 2007

This year's Arts Experience was originally intended to be based on African culture, but as this replicated a topic we had covered in recent years, we decided to broaden the theme to include 'Folk Culture from around the World'. This allowed us to include a wide range of activities, including carnival figures, Maori dances and Russian folk songs, amongst other items.

The aim of the whole event is to give all Y8 pupils the opportunity to take part in a collaborative arts activity over a period of three days. With this in mind, normal timetable is suspended and each pupil chooses an arts specialism on which to concentrate. This can include Dance, Drama, Music, Film or Visual Art.

The first two days are spent instigating and practising a piece which is then put into a run-

through in the hall on the third morning, prior to a presentation to other pupils and families on the final afternoon.

As the pupils can spend an extended time on their chosen activity, they are able to study it in much further depth than would normally be possible. It also allows for continuous progression, so the work can be evaluated and refined through practice, engendering deeper understanding. Pupils were also encouraged to put in their own ideas, rather than being led entirely by supervising staff. This resulted in a more personal approach to each piece.

The whole event was enjoyed by all pupils and created a memorable culmination to the summer term.

R J Lockey

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Y9/10 Spanish Trip to Ribadesella



At 6:45 in the morning of July 8th, thirty eager pupils and the three tired teachers (Mr Hearn, Miss Brake and Mr Parker) arrived at school. We loaded our suitcases onto the coach and left at 7:00 for Stansted Airport for the flight to Asturias.

The only hitch at the airport was the security check. Five of us (**Jim Bell, Andy Marshall, Jack Hollocks, Karl Turner** and I) were detained for carrying too much liquid in our hand luggage – over 100ml! I had my sun cream and hand wash confiscated! Following that, we were given free time to browse the shops and grab a bite to eat. Following a very comfortable 'EasyJet' flight and coach journey, we arrived at Hotel Marina. This was the only occasion when it rained. After tea, we had a brief tour of the town which was very interesting and Mr Hearn gave us our diaries which had to be completed in Spanish.



Monday - we had all day in Ribadesella to explore surroundings in greater detail and have fun on the beach. Also, we were allowed to 'swim' in the sea – this was enjoyable but the taste of salt water made me feel slightly uncomfortable!



Tuesday - after breakfast, we departed at 10:00 by coach to visit the famous 'Picos de Europa' mountains – Spain is the second most mountainous country in Europe. We all went on a challenging walk. After a while, we split into two groups. The more determined carried on and walked for a longer time. However, a fair amount of people chose to go on the shorter walk because they were tired or too hot. For me, the main

attraction of the shorter walk was that there was a nice café at the end – a well deserved treat for all my efforts!



Wednesday - market day, so the town was busy. In the morning, we visited the 'Tito Bustillo' caves where we saw some very ancient cave paintings: approximately 15,000 years old.

After lunch, the sand sculpture competition took place. Unfortunately, our group came close to last, despite all our hard work. We had plenty of free time left to spend playing on the beach and to 'swim' in the sea. The vicious waves caused pain on my sun-burnt back!



Thursday - in Oviedo, the capital of Asturias. In the morning, we had a town trail and the afternoon was free for sight seeing or shopping. The people who thought of their parents kindly bought them a gift. This day was the hottest – temperatures reached up to 35°!



Friday - we were driven upstream to Ariondas. We then canoed in pairs for approximately 15km downstream through the beautiful scenery. The provided lunch was not quite my cup of tea!

Playing football with Spanish teenagers on most of the evenings gave us a great opportunity to mix with locals and try conversing in Spanish. We were all given the task of interviewing a person in Spanish about their life and occupation. I chose to interview one of the main assistants of the Hotel Marina. It went well as I was able to understand almost all of what she said.



Saturday - having packed everything away, we could buy any last minute presents from the shops in Ribadesella. Then at 10:30, we headed for Gijón to visit an aquarium.

This was fascinating. We then went to the Asturias airport to catch the flight back to Stansted. Our plane was delayed by half-an-hour. This put many angry expressions on people's faces, but we managed to arrive back at school as expected. We stopped at Oxford service station for tea, and then returned to STRS at 8:40pm This trip was brilliant and well organised; plenty of interesting activities. Our thanks go to all the teachers for arranging it and giving up their time to entertain us. ¡Adiós!

N Thompson, 9T

PA NewsREEL

Raffle Tickets

The PA will be distributing raffle tickets with this term's Half-term School reports. We fully understand that not everyone will want to take part in the raffle, especially parents who may regard this as a form of gambling and object in principle; however, it is hugely time consuming to omit the tickets from the reports of pupils whose parents do not want to take part. Therefore, please do not be offended if you do not want to take part, but simply return the tickets unused.



Lift-sharing

The PA has been discussing how it might facilitate a lift-share scheme for parents who use their cars to take their children to school. Enclosed with this

edition of NewsREEL is a slip to be completed by anyone that might be interested in such a scheme. Completing and returning the form means that your contact details will be made visible to other parents. However, these details will NOT be made available to third parties. Please return the form by the end of September 2007, as we intend to make the details available at the introductory evening for Y7 parents on the 10th October.



PA Fund Raising

We thought it might interest you to know that, in the last five years, the PA has raised and given £169,000 to the school,

which averages £34,000 per year. This money has been spent on a variety of things, including grants for affiliation fees to a range of organisations, such as Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, The Royal Geographical Society, English School's Rugby Football Union and the British Chess Federation, the running costs of the 2 school mini-buses, subscriptions for magazines for the school library, in 2002 we paid for a new mini-bus (although I should add, that we paid for the old one as well). We have given a significant grant

CAR BOOT SALE

Car Boot Sales at Sir Thomas Rich's School have proved to be a resounding success. There's something for everyone!

FORTHCOMING CAR BOOT SALES

Saturday 15th September

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Saturday 29th September

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Held on the school's Tennis Courts (partic banks can set up from 12 noon)
BOOKINGS: contact Julie on 01452 713177



to enable the school to improve its computer provision and purchased 4 x 2 decimal place Balances, which connect to the computers. We have purchased 2 x Techsoft Laser Cutters (Cam A2) for the CAD/CAM department and we funded the total re-development cost of the sports changing rooms (just over £25,000). In the 2006/07 academic year we were asked to make a contribution towards additional interactive whiteboards and PC's - the total cost of which is £32,766. We are currently waiting to see whether there is enough money in the Kitty to pay the total cost. We have only managed to achieve all of this with the hard work of the PA and the support of you, the parents. The Gifting Scheme is our largest fundraiser - if you're not already part of it and would like to join, please e.mail sall@business-advancement.co.uk for a form.

The PA Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 1st December 2007 from 1:30- 3:30pm.

2007/8 CALENDAR

Please note that the "Easter Holidays" do not coincide with Easter next year. Good Friday (21 March) and Easter Monday (24 March) will be holidays but then we are back to school for a fortnight. The end-of-term holiday runs from Monday 7 to Friday 18 April. These holidays are common to all Gloucestershire schools under the 'six term year' arrangements.

AUTUMN TERM 2007

Friday 21 September
Monday 8 October
Tuesday 16 October
Wednesday 17 October
Monday 22 – Friday 26 October
Monday 29 Oct – Fri 2 Nov
Monday 19 November
Mon 26 Nov – Weds 5 Dec
Sat 1 Dec
Weds 12, Thurs 13, Fri 14 December
Monday 17 December
Tuesday 18 December
Wednesday 19 December
Thursday 20 December

Speech Day, 7:30 pm.
Informal Y7 Parents' Evening, 7:00 pm.
Open Day
Open Day & Open Evening
Half Term holidays
L6 exams
Y10 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.
Trial GCSEs (Y11)
PA Christmas Fayre, 1:30 - 3:30 pm.
School Drama Performance, 7:30 pm.
U6 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.
Carol Service, St. John's Northgate, 7:30 pm.
Carol Service, Holy Trinity, Longlevens, 7:30 pm.
Term ends, 12:45 pm.

SPRING TERM 2008

Thursday 3 January
Wednesday 9 January
Thursday 17 January
Mon 21 – Fri 25 January
Wednesday 23 January
Wednesday 6 February
Tuesday 12 February
Mon 18 – Fri 22 February
Mon 25 – Fri 29 February
Monday 10 March
Mon 10 – Fri 14 March
Fri 14 – Thurs 20 March
Fri 21 & Mon 24 March
Wednesday 2 April
Friday 4 April

Term starts, 8:40 am.
6th Form Open Evening, 7:00 pm.
Y11 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.
Y11 Work Experience
*Y9 'Options' Evening, 7:00 pm.
Y8 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.
Y9 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.
Half Term holidays
Y10 exams
Y7 Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.
*Founder's Week
Trial AS exams (L6th)
Good Friday/Easter Monday holidays
L6th Parents' Evening, 5:00 pm.
Term ends, 12:45 pm.

SUMMER TERM 2008

Monday 21 April
Mon 21 – Fri 25 April
Monday 5 May
Tues 6 – Fri 9 May
Mon 12 May – Fri 6 June
Weds 14 May – Tues 24 June
Mon 26 – Fri 30 May
Mon 9 – Weds 25 June
Mon 23 – Thurs 26 June
Friday 27 June
Mon 30 June – Fri 4 July
Thursday 3 July
Friday 18 July

Term starts, 8:40 am.
Trial A2 exams (U6th)
May Day bank holiday
SATs (Y9)
AS exams (L6th)
GCSE exams
Half Term holidays
A2 exams (U6th)
End of Year exams (Y7, 8, 9)
INSET Day (no school for pupils)
6th Form Induction Week
Sports Evening, 6:30 pm.
Term ends, 12:45 pm.

NOTICE TO ALL DRIVERS
We would respectfully request that parents and guardians dropping pupils at school or collecting them in the afternoon refrain from 'waiting' on the zig-zag no parking area of the road. This is causing congestion and putting other children at risk when attempting to

* date change made