

July 2023

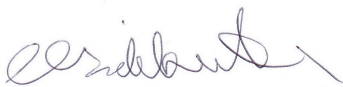
Dear Parent/Carer

We are drawing to the end of another successful year at Smithills School. Sadly, for me, it is my last as I move on to a new challenge. I feel extremely privileged to have been the headteacher for six years. It has been a wonderful time and I will miss our children, staff and everyone involved with our school very much. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support, in being part of improving Smithills year on year.

I leave the school in very capable hands, with Miss Dewse becoming headteacher from September. I am confident that she will build on our success and the school will go from strength to strength. I am sure that you will continue to show your support for our new headteacher and our school.

Have a fantastic summer holiday, take time to enjoy it with your children and stay well.

Yours faithfully



M. Sidebottom
Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to thank Mr Sidebottom for his kind words and for leading the school so successfully over the past 6 years. I am delighted to have been appointed as the new headteacher of Smithills School and look forward to working closely with you, pupils and all my dedicated colleagues.

From my experience of being a Deputy Headteacher and recently Head of School, I know that a successful and happy school depends on us all working together. As parents and carers, you make an important contribution to your child's achievements, and I'm excited to build on the relationship between you and the school.

I will be holding several events over the next term, including coffee mornings and drop-in sessions and I look forward to meeting many of you there. These meetings will take place at different times in the hope that as many families as possible will have the opportunity to attend.

I will also be available at the school gate most mornings before and after school, so please do say hello.

Uniform and Equipment

All pupils must wear the correct uniform at all times. Children need to have a complete PE kit and attend school with a bag, pen, pencil, ruler and water bottle. Our uniform expectations are outlined below:

Item	Expectation
Blazer with Smithills Badge on it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The blazer must be worn at all times. Please note, pupils will be advised when they are permitted to remove blazers outside of the classroom due to weather conditions.
Grey pleated skirt or trousers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knee length skirts may be worn Full length (not $\frac{3}{4}$ length) trousers must be worn on the waist. Pupils may wear full length trousers with a pleated skirt (no leggings)
Black belt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only black belts with a small, plain buckle are permitted. Belts must be worn inside belt loops
White Shirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be tucked into the skirt or trousers with all buttons done up
School jumper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an optional item if pupils wish to wear an additional layer to keep warm
Plain white, grey or black socks /black or grey tights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If wearing a skirt, socks must be white, grey or black and knee or ankle length If wearing trousers, socks must be white, grey or black and ankle length Trainer socks are not permitted
Flat black leather shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoes must be plain, smart and business like; they must not look like a trainer or plimsoll Shoes should not be suede or have any coloured stitching or any embellishments Boots must not be worn The school retains the final decision on whether a shoe is in line with the policy
Hair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hair must always be kept off the face and not fall below the eyebrows Hair that falls below the collar should be tied back For hair that falls below the collar and cannot be tied at the back of the head, a larger headband should be used to keep the hair together Distinct shape-up/shaping of the hairline is not permitted and there should be no hair markings or shapes cut into the hair There must be no distinct contrast (including 'step') between the top, the back and the sides of the hair; any short sides and back must be blended gradually into the top of the hair Hair must be the pupil's natural colour Eyebrows must not be shaved or have any markings in them Facial hair must be clean shaved or natural The school retains the final decision on whether hair, including

	facial hair, is in line with the policy
Jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No jewellery is permitted, except for a single/pair of small, plain, round gold or silver stud earrings in the lobe of the ear • Diamante stud earrings are not permitted. No other form of body piercing is allowed A watch may be worn providing its only function/feature is telling the time e.g. no smartwatches, watches with alarms or sound effects, watches with calculators or video/audio recording capability • Jewellery and watches must be removed before all P.E. lessons • Watches need to be removed for all external exams in line with the JCQ guidance
Head covering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faces must always be fully visible; full or partial face coverings are not permitted

The new school term starts on **Wednesday 6th September**. New year 7 pupils must arrive for 8.30am to the main hall. All other year groups arrive at 9.30am via middle drive. Year 11 will line up for assembly, all other year groups will go to form.

I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday and I look forward to welcoming all our children in September.

Yours faithfully



Miss Dewse
Head of School