**Welcome and welcome back to both new and established readers! We hope you had a lovely summer break and are already settled into the new term and new school year. Our first assembly of the year challenged us to imagine a different world where kindness, respect and care replace suspicion and hostility. The “Waddlebird” (aka Dodo) story served to illustrate the point. We hope our school community really is a place where everyone can “thrive with dignity” as our Mission Statement says, “knowing we are loved by God”. Please do all you can to support us this year in our endeavour! We were joined in worship by Revs Pete and Rosie from local Anglican Churches. They, along with Fr David from St Edward’s Church, make up our Chaplaincy team and will join us throughout the year for worship.**

**Parliamentary Review**

Our ‘Citizenship’ theme this term is “Government and Democracy”. How fitting then that last week, Co-head teachers Mr Welsh and Mr Miles were invited to a gala reception at the Houses of Parliament for this year’s “Parliamentary Review”. In this annual publication alongside contributions from the Prime Minister, the current and former Education Secretaries Damian Hinds MP and Lord Blunkett, articles on fifteen schools in the south of England which highlight ‘best practice’ in schools. From the article on Tuesday 8th October—Wednesday 9th October at 6pm with the object of two Headteacher talks and parents are invited to tour the school and talk with staff and students as they go to find out what ‘learning at SIERF’ is all about!

**Election Fever**

Democracy is in action for our young people too in the next week. Today each class held its election for School Council representatives. Results are not yet known at the time of going to press but it is really good that so many children have put themselves forward. The aim is to share best practice in leadership (all schools and LA’s receive a copy) across the education sector and beyond; it reaches half a million leaders across different sectors. Speakers at the event included Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP and England rugby coach, Eddie Jones – a fabulous way to start our new school year.

**Welcome**

We welcome all new pupils throughout the school and have a number of new staff joining the team too! Miss Bassett will be teaching Art & Design and tutoring 7/1 while Miss Marsh teaches maths and is the form tutor for 6/3. Mrs Mansell is also new to SIERF and joins our Teaching Support team. We wish all our new colleagues much happiness and success in their new school.

**Home-School Agreements**

Parents have a vital role to play in supporting our school as we try to ensure everyone thrives. This week new parents have been meeting with Senior staff and with their children to sign our Home-School Partnership Agreement. This is an important first step in establishing that mutually supportive relationship. If you are a parent of a child new to the school and have not had a meeting or arranged one for early next week please contact the school office. There are still some slots after school on Monday and Tuesday. Some parents were able to sign up on Wednesday this week when they came along to the PSA (Parent School Association) Reception. This was a welcome party but also a chance to meet Year 5 tutors and hear from other parents about how we hope you will be able to support both our fundraising and other community events. Watch out for details of discos and the Christmas Fayre in this newsletter later in the term.

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**Reminders**

Finaly we have extended the opportunity to donate to the Mrs Smith memorial fund until the end of this month. If you intended to donate but didn’t get round to it we hope this will be a welcome second chance! Cheques to St Edward’s Royal Free Middle School handed or posted to the School Office or online via www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ruthsmith-sierf are the easiest ways to contribute or via the secure tucasi online payment method. All contributions welcome and we look forward to letting you know how the money will be spent as we progress plans later this term.

**Safe Parking**

We continue to receive complaints and concerns expressed by neighbours and parents about unsafe driving and parking at busy times of the day – mornings and afternoons. It has even been claimed that the school allows certain parents permission to park on double-yellow lines and zig-zag lines on the kerb at the entrance to the driveway. We emphatically do not. All the signage at the entrance to school on Parsonage Lane indicates the space must be kept clear and that we expect drivers to respect the residents’ need to access driveways and their own property. Without exception. Please respect and understand it is about safety of pedestrians, cyclists and scooters not convenience of car users. A few parents with children who are disabled – including some temporarily – have been granted access to the Car Park at these times but there are no more than 4 or 5 currently. Again please respect this and don’t try to enter the site behind one of these cars.

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Welcome back to the new term!! We have only just started and already there is a lot going on in the PE department!!

Our students in the Lower School have been enjoying the fitness unit and the tag rugby in their games lessons. In the Upper School the fitness programme is getting very competitive with students striving to get the best Bleep Test score, and starting their netball or rugby lessons.

There is separate communication regarding this, but we are adding a gum shield to our Key Stage 3 P.E. kit list, and we would appreciate parental support in this matter to reduce the risk of injury to students.

Next week, our Year 7 football team are in action in 2 games against St. Peter’s and then Wexham in the Borough Cup and we are looking to get off to a winning start.

All of our clubs start on Monday and they were put up for the students to see today. We have had an unprecedented amount of interest in these with every club being over-subscribed. We have been as flexible as we can be with these but there may be some disappointment. To reduce this, we will be adding to our programme for years 5 and 6 as the term goes on with our year 7 Sports Leaders running clubs once they have completed their training.

Copy of School Correspondence
All letters sent out from School can also be located on the School website
http://www.sterf.org.uk/Parents/Letters-to-Parents/

Welcome to the new parents – we hope that you enjoyed our reception on Wednesday evening.

Once again, the PSA (Parent School Association) will be fundraising throughout the year and supporting the school at various events. We kick off the year with our AGM next Thursday at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to attend. This is closely followed by our PSA social in October – look out for details soon. Attached is the sign up form for our 50:50 club – which is a fun way to raise funds, please do join. Also attached are details about signing up to Classlist – this is a great way to communicate with other parents in the school.

We will be organising our Christmas Fayre from next week – which raises valuable funds for the school and is lots of fun for the pupils – and parents too. It cannot run without your valuable support. We are looking forward to a great year!