Pupils don't remember what you try to teach them. They remember what you are.”

- Jim Henson

Dear Parents,

It has certainly become autumnal in recent days and as a result of the heavy rain we were forced to postpone class photographs until Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th September, please see further details inside.

We were delighted on Monday this week to open our new playground fully; we had cordoned off one section for extra work to ensure it met the necessary safety regulations and the playground is now fully compatible. We wish our pupils many hours of fun and enjoyment here.

In our first week at school we had a full Fire Evacuation drill and this was very successful and I commend the students on their behaviour and attentiveness. We will have a full inspection from the Fire Department this term and I will share their findings with the school community.

Overleaf I include the updated school vision, mission, ethos and guiding statements. These have been revised in line with consultations with pupils, parents and staff and I believe the result is that these are more concise and focused. The guiding statements are there to guide us in both operational and strategic decisions and I trust you will find them useful. In my office the motto: “To strive for success and to serve” is above my notice board and my goal is make these statements overleaf come alive for our pupils, parents and staff.

In the first week of October OBS will welcome visitors from the Council of International Schools (CIS) who will spent a few days in the school for a pre accreditation visit. OBS is an accredited and executive member of CIS and this accreditation is renewed every 5 years. This pre visit is to ascertain if OBS is ready to undergo the full accreditation process and this will involve an accreditation team visiting the school to review our performance and assist us in making the school even better.

Much work and documentation has already been done in preparation for this and I thank Mrs Saraiva, Dr. Jones and all the committee chairs for the many hours of preparation and reflection.

Over recent weeks I have had the opportunity to meet many of you around the school. However I wish to invite you to a coffee morning on Thursday 2nd October at 9am in Teage Hall. At this meeting I will present the findings of a start of year survey that will go out next Tuesday to all parents. This survey is to provide us with feedback on what we do well and areas for improvement.

I ask you all to complete this and I believe it should take no more than 20 minutes.

I extend my condolences and sympathy to David Padden, Teacher of 4P, and his family on the death of his grandmother this week. Mr. Padden will return on Monday.

Tom McGrath, Headmaster
Vision
Oporto British School is committed to achieving excellence for all

Mission Statement
As the oldest British School in Continental Europe, Oporto British School is committed to providing a high quality international education for its pupils

Ethos
To Strive for Success and To Serve

GUIDING STATEMENTS

All students at OBS will:

- aim for the best possible level of academic achievement according to individual ability.
- work independently and collaboratively.
- take responsibility for their own actions and make informed choices.
- become aware of their responsibilities as kind and thoughtful individuals, mindful of the needs of others, in order to become valued and caring members of the school, local and global communities.
- acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to the changing world in which they live.
- make a positive contribution as citizens of the wider world, guided by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Tom McGrath - Headmaster

PRIMARY NOTICES

PLAY PARK
As many of you will be aware, the Primary section now has a brand new play park. After a delayed wait for a full safety inspection from the local council the pupils are now enjoying the full use of this extended, and greatly improved, space. Please can I remind you that pupils should only use the play park when there is a staff member on duty.

HEADLICE
As we endeavour to limit, any occurrence of head lice we would ask that parents continue to be vigilant when checking their child’s hair. We will continue to communicate to parents if there is a report of head lice in a particular class. Should your child have head
lice then we ask you to complete a full course of medical shampoo and ensure that your child is lice free before returning to school.

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

Most of the pupil individual photographs have been completed; any make-up photographs will take place this coming week. Due to the heavy rain on Thursday, class photographs have been rescheduled for Tuesday in Primary and Wednesday for Secondary (23rd and 24th). If you have already placed an order for a family photo, this will take place on Tuesday from 16:10 in the senior library. Please contact Mr Abílio if you haven’t ordered one and would still like to do so: abiliofotografo@gmail.com

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

I would like to thank you for attending the Parent evening last Tuesday; Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher should you have any further questions that were not covered during this evening. Also, please do continue to check the website and class blogs for updates.

Please be aware that Mr Evans is away for professional development from 22nd - 26th September. Please contact Lesley.Costello@obs.edu.pt or Jonathan.Bridges@obs.edu.pt in his absence.

Mark Evans, Head of Primary

SECONDARY NOTICES

FORM 12 PREPARE FOR IBDP EXAMS

Over the summer period our Form 12 pupils worked hard on getting coursework completed and revising for their end of year exams. Some students also attended programmes in the UK.

Pinky Kotecha attended the Oxford Royale Academy Medicine prep course and won the achievement prize at the end of the course.

Luciana Ayres de Campos and Eduarda Duarte Brandão also attend the Oxford Royale Academy for a Law preparation course. Both girls found the course extremely valuable and achieved an A* and A grade respectively.

Teresa Alves and Maria Mederios also attended the OSC IBDP revision courses at Cambridge University where they reviewed IBDP courses and practised IBDP exam technique.

Nikki Macleod, IBDP Coordinator

LIBRARY BOOK INFORMATION

We would like to develop the reading resources in our Primary and Secondary libraries for the various languages spoken in our school community. Your expertise in recommending appropriate fiction and non-fiction books for our pupils particularly in Norwegian, Dutch, German, French and Chinese (Mandarin) would be most helpful. This appeal also includes books in Portuguese and French.

If you would like to contribute suggestions please send them by email to Linda Wilson (School Librarian) at linda.wilson@obs.edu.pt
Curriculum maps will be published by the end of the week:

KS3 schemes of work can be found at http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=419

IGCSE schemes of work can be found at http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=420

IBDP schemes of work can be found at http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=421

ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

This is a key focus for the year. To help pupils track their own learning they will now have Core Assessment Sheet stuck in the front of their subject book. This will have the title of the Core Assessment, any mark or grade and a formative target for learning.

Ailish Corcoran, Academic Coordinator

NEW PUPILS TO OBS

We are happy to say that the new pupils that have joined OBS are settling in very well thanks to the support and welcome provided by existing pupils. Parents of new pupils are welcome to make an appointment with the Form Tutor or Dr Jones to find out more about how their child is settling in.

UCAS EVENING

Thank you to all parents and pupils who attended this informative evening. All further enquiries should be directed to nikki.macleod@obs.edu.pt

HOMEWORK DIARIES

Homework timetables were issued last week and found at http://www.obs.edu.pt/page.cfm?p=418. Please could parents check and sign diaries every weekend.

FORM 6 TO 8 TEAM BUILDING TRIPS

We are happy to say that all of Form 6 got off to Gerês on time and are sure that they have braved the rains. Form 7 and 8 pupils need to hand in their permission slips to their Form tutor by Tuesday, 23rd September. Any queries should be sent to anastasia.denisova@obs.edu.pt or anja.dahl@obs.edu.pt.

Peter Jones, Head of Secondary

USEFUL INFORMATION

ADMISSIONS FOR SIBLINGS

If you have another child you would like to enrol in our Prep 2015-2016 class (born in 2011), please fill in the Application Form: http://www.obs.edu.pt/uploaded/Forms/application_form_2013.pdf and email it to Lucy.Packett@obs.edu.pt or alternatively please drop it off at school with the registration fee of €70.00. You will be contacted in October to book a time for your child’s assessment with Mrs Eastley, in the week commencing the 10th of November 2014.

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING TIMES

Tuesday: 8:30 to 9:30
Wednesday: 15:00 to 16:30
SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Group photographs have been rescheduled for next Tuesday in Primary and Wednesday for Secondary (23rd & 24th) due to the heavy rain on Thursday. If you have already placed an order for a family photo, this will take place on Tuesday from 16:10 in the library. Please contact Mr Abilio if you haven’t ordered one and would still like to do so: abiliofotografo@gmail.com

PARENT CONTACT DETAILS

Please would you ensure you inform the school as a matter of priority if any of your contact details change. It is very important that we are able to contact you should we need to at any time.

SCHOOL DAY:

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>PRIMARY</th>
<th>SECONDARY</th>
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<tr>
<td>08:50-08:55</td>
<td>REGISTRATION</td>
<td>REGISTRATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:55-09:35</td>
<td>PERIOD 1</td>
<td>PERIOD 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:35-10:15</td>
<td>PERIOD 2</td>
<td>PERIOD 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15-10:55</td>
<td>PERIOD 3</td>
<td>PERIOD 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:55-11:15</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<td>11:15-11:55</td>
<td>PERIOD 4</td>
<td>PERIOD 4</td>
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<td>PERIOD 5</td>
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<td>12:35-13:15</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td>PERIOD 6</td>
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<td>13:15-13:40</td>
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<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td>13:40-14:10</td>
<td>PERIOD 6</td>
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<td>14:50-15:30</td>
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<td>15:30-16:10</td>
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<td>(FORMS 4 &amp; 5)</td>
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Prep and Reception have lunch earlier, 12.00 and 12.15

DATES FOR DIARIES

23rd-24th September - Whole school class photos
24th-25th September - Form 7 Team building trip
02nd October - Coffee Morning with Headmaster 9am
02nd-03rd October - Form 8 Team building trip
04th-05th October - Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition
06th-08th October - Council of International Schools (CIS) Prep Visit
23rd October - Harvest Festival 4.30pm, Stella Maris Church