Friday 13th October

Dear Parent.

I realised that there wont be another newsletter until after half term so just wanted to update you on a couple of things.

Firstly, thank you to FoKS and all the volunteers for arranging the calendar. I know some were dismayed that I asked for uniform to be worn afterwards. I think the calendar is a lovely idea and one of the things that makes Keevil ‘Keevil, but uniform and the standards it represents are very important to me. That’s the standard.

There will be a lot of change going on at the school in the first few weeks back. Firstly, the installation of all the wiring and computer desks around the school, then the equipment itself. This will actually start in half term, but there will be some disruption afterwards. Critically, there will be a few days when the system is down, meaning that we won’t have access to e mail or the internet etc. The admin team will text you to update you.

Part of this will mean a new website. This is more likely to happen at Christmas/New Year. All that is on our present one will be in the new site, but we will ensure we explain how to navigate it.

Thirdly, our new online system for payments will be starting at some point over the next half term. It is for Mrs. Fish and Mrs. Thomas to explain this fully. I know they have very good, indeed cunning, plan to ensure we have as smooth as transition as possible. I know a number of you have asked for this, tightly, for some time. It will make everyone’s life easier.

Now all of that says nothing about the children! The reason we’re all here. But the smooth running of all those projects and the effective administration of the school are what enable the learning to happen. It’s also worth reminding ourselves that the vast bulk of the IT changes are for the children directly. On top of that a big thank you to Acorn for their enabling of all this – Rob Knott in who is in charge of IT and who you will see around and Sandra George who is the Chief Operating Officer.

The Teacher Development Day on Wednesday is an Acorn Trust one at New Close School in Warminster where we are all able to go to different workshops on aspects of learning. I’m pleased to say that staff from Keevil are running a number of these.

My thanks, as always, to all the staff for such a great beginning to the year. Miss. Mortimer has made a great start and it feels like she’s always been with us. Mrs Hermon has taken to her new role with aplomb, and the football team are blossoming (almost literally in their new kit) under Mr.McCaldon’s managerial expertise (and Mrs James’s, of course). We look forward to Miss. Stather, who did some of her training at Keevil, joining us at Christmas to cover Mrs Whitcher’s maternity leave.