

Ibstock Place School,

September 1955.

Dear Friends,

Staff. I am not giving you any news of changes of staff in this letter as they are all included in the magazine which your child probably bought at the end of last term (if not, some copies are still on sale, price 2/-), only Miss Gibbons, to our great sorrow, has been advised by her doctor to take a rest and then a lighter job. I believe we have been fortunate to find, in Miss Thornton, an old student free to come to us after four years of experience at King's College Prep. School, Cambridge.

Clothes for gym. Now that we have an indoor gymnasium it is more necessary for the children to change for P.E. Daniel Neal sell the requisite white pants and vests. These can be bought more cheaply elsewhere, though I have not found any as good in quality at the price. Boarders need two white vests and 2 prs. of white pants. Children will also wear these for Music through Movement.

Ink. For obvious reasons we use washable Quink at school and this is also recommended for fountain pens. Therefore children must not bring bottles of their own ink to school.

Arrival at school. You will greatly help us if you will help to regulate the time of the arrival of children at school. Staff are very busy in their class rooms before morning school, and children should not arrive long before the scheduled opening. Children at Ibstock Place should arrive as near 9 a.m. as possible (Assembly is at 9.15). Children at Grove House school should arrive as near 9.30 as possible. Where children of the same family attend both schools the younger child will be received early at Grove House school - but not before 9 a.m.

Clothing. May we ask once more for a systematic inspection of your child's removable clothing at least once a week to make sure that he/she has not by mistake exchanged a gumboot, cap, or vest, etc. during a school day. Please do continue to report losses as soon as possible. We do look, though not always successfully!

Parents' Meetings. We hope as many parents as possible will be able to come to the two parents' meetings this term. On Monday 3rd. October we intend to hold a symposium on Relationship of Home and School and we hope it will be an occasion when "old and new" school parents and staff may meet socially. On Monday 14th. November Miss Brearley, Principal of the Froebel Institute, will speak on Children Learning to Read.

Concerts. The children from Upper IVA and Upper IVB have the right to go to the children's concerts at the Royal Festival Hall. The seats in boxes cost £1.1.0 for the series of seven concerts, and these concerts are prepared for in music lessons. If any child does not use a ticket it will be offered to a child in a lower form.

Dates. We have enclosed a programme of events this term. Please will you enter in your diary all dates important to you and keep the programme as well. We shall only remind you of meetings by verbal messages via the children.

Cinema Club. The Cinema Club is open to all children from Form I upwards: subscription 2/6 per term, payable to the form teacher during the first week of each term. We hope to show the films mentioned on the programme of dates but the booking has not yet been confirmed so some alteration may be necessary.

Education, to be worth much, is a matter for co-operation between home and school, and I shall be much helped if you will continue to let me know when a child is in difficulty in any way. Not that we can always put everything right, neither, indeed, is it desirable to remove all difficulties since we all learn a great deal by overcoming a difficulty, but sometimes it is a great help to know if a child is in need of aid. It is also a help to know when he/she has shown a special interest or pleasure in any school or other activity. I shall usually be at home to parents on Wednesdays from 11.40 to 12.40 and Fridays from 2 to 4, but please ring up for an appointment for those or other times.

This is the first term of a new session and we are starting off with a large number of very hopeful new staff. Children, as you know, often show their loyalty to past staff by being very critical of new staff. Your wisdom can help both them and us very greatly not to waste time during this first month.

Yours sincerely,

O. Barbara Priestman.

For Parents of Boarders.

We believe that it is easier for all children, and most especially all new children, to settle down if they have the first two weekends at school. Will you please try to avoid asking for your child to come out to a meal or a walk for those two weekends so that they may all be alike and have a corporate life together. We believe it is better for children to stay at school unvisited and not go home for a meal on non-going-home weekends. This leaves time for real playing together which is broken up when one or two children go out. It also leaves opportunity for expeditions, acting, etc.

Boarders may write letters home any day but because it is an effort many children only write at the set time on Wednesday evening. These letters are usually posted early on Thursday. I usually look at Wednesday letters of children under ten unless they show themselves very capable of writing an interesting letter. I never look at letters from children from Lower IV up unless I give warning that an envelope is so untidy that I shall inspect the letter the next time!

It will be a great help if you will try to see that children do not bring back either extra pocket money or extra sweets to eat in bed after a visit home.

O.B. P.