



Dear RBA Families,

This week, it has been fantastic to see our wide range of extra-curricular clubs kick off. I was particularly delighted by a record turnout at my own KS2 Chess Club—so much so that we actually ran short on chess boards! With that in mind, I'd like to make a slightly cheeky request: if you happen to have any unwanted chess sets cluttering up cupboards at home that you would be willing to donate, we would be immensely grateful to give them a good home.

This week also featured our annual start-of-year Fun Run! I made sure to remind all our runners that smiling was mandatory, given the name of the event. I even joined in for a couple of the races myself, though it is fair to say I won't be troubling our cross-country running team anytime soon!

As we settle into a new school year, I would like to take a moment to give couple of reminders, if I may:

- **Hoodies:** please note that, under updated national guidance, hoodies are no longer permitted to be worn during PE lessons. Ideally, they should also not be worn instead of a school jumper or as a coat around school. We have lots of items in our pre-loved uniform shop and can help out any families that might need some support.
- **Squishies:** please also ensure fluid-filled squishies are not brought into school. These frequently split, posing a safety risk due to the liquid inside and causing damage to school furniture and floors.

Thank you for your attention to and support for the above.

Looking back slightly, last year marked the 10-year anniversary of our wonderful Multi Academy Trust, BEST. A special commemorative booklet celebrating this milestone has been created, and you can access it via the link attached to the email notification for this update. We feel very lucky to be part of such a supportive, values-driven trust that consistently keeps student success and wellbeing at the forefront of everything they do.

Looking ahead to next week, we are thrilled to host an author visit for Year 5 on Monday with Jasbinder Bilan, author of *Calling the Whales*. I hope the students enjoyed reading their free copy over the summer! We are really looking forward to her presentation and hope our Year 5s have plenty of insightful questions ready about the book and her life as an author.

In related news, I would like to reassure you that building a reading culture remains a priority area for us at RBA, and it has been wonderful to see so many students already finishing books this term and completing Accelerated Reader quizzes on their summer reading. We strongly encourage all parents—especially our new Year 5 families—to visit the [RBA Reading Page](#) for resources and guidance on how we approach reading and how you can support at home.



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Principal: Mr John Linehan



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Further information on our approach to reading will be given at our Year 5 Meet the Tutor and Information Evening, which will take place in school on Wednesday 30th September from 4:30 pm. This evening will also offer a chance to tour the school, meet your child's tutor, and learn more about life at RBA. Please look out for an email from Mr Marshall in the coming days with further details regarding this event.

I would also like to bring your attention to a very special event for our community coming up next week. On Friday 25th September, we will gather for the Stephen Fox Memorial Football Match at Shefford Football Club, with a 7:30 pm kick-off. Steve was a true pillar of the Shefford community and gave 28 wonderful years of service to RBA prior to his unexpected passing in June 2025. We would love to see a big turnout from the RBA community to honour Steve's memory—and you can expect to see plenty of RBA staff dusting off their boots for the occasion! To support this cause, we will host a Non-Uniform Day on Friday 25th September, with all funds raised (by the suggested voluntary donation of £1 or £2) going directly to the Stephen Fox Foundation.

Lastly, we would like to wish Mrs Tipper the absolute best of luck as she swims the Serpentine this Saturday! She is tackling a mammoth 2-mile swim in aid of Sue Ryder. If you feel able to contribute to this wonderful cause, please visit her [Serpentine Swim Fundraising Page](#).

Thank you all for your time - I hope you have a great weekend.

John Linehan



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