



Dear Parents,

October is upon us and it is back to *'business as usual'* at the ESF.

- The year 4 classes have moved into the containers. The final technical details are being installed and pupils and teachers alike can settle into their new class-rooms. The sports hall is back in full use, although thanks to the good weather sports lessons during the first three weeks of term were able to run very well outdoors.
- The Italian section is now also complete and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome four new colleagues:

Maria Teresa Ferreri	Pre-Primary
Lucia Pischedda	P 1 IT
Cinzia Greco	P 3 IT
Maria Teresa Predieri	P 4 IT

Despite the delay, we wish them all a good start at the ESF and in the European School system.

All in all I am extremely proud to be part of the ESF; despite difficult conditions (not enough rooms and missing teachers) the academic year for our children got off to a good start. A big thank you to our teachers, replacement teachers, administration, caretakers and last but not least, our pupils who have all done their very best to make this a success.

Our year 1 pupils are moving around the school with the confidence you see in older pupils. May I therefore kindly ask parents of pupils in year 1 to say goodbye to their children at the Gate (A) allowing them to make their way independently to their class room. Please rest assured that children take on this new autonomy and increased responsibility in a very positive way. The same can be said for the end of the school day. All primary pupils are able to make their

own way to gate A. When using the car-park please remember to apply the principal of *Kiss and Fly*. While our pupil numbers continue to rise, our parking facilities remain the same.

As in the past I try to be at Gate A in the morning and in the afternoon. This allows me to meet with parents and pupils regularly and I am happy to listen to your questions, and sometimes I can answer them or we can find solutions to *'small'* problems. However, more complex issues require more time and should be dealt with in the appropriate place and for an appropriate length of time. This also applies to talks with teachers. Please use the teachers' consultation hours or make a separate appointment allowing enough time to talk to either teachers or myself.

I would like to address the topic of communication by email. With thousands of mails arriving during a school year we have no choice but to make the most efficient use possible of this channel of communication.

- I consider email (and here I also speak for my colleagues) a means for brief communication or information.
- We all seek to reply as soon as possible (within a maximum of 2 days)
- More complex or emotional matters should be dealt with in a different way. In these cases a meeting should always be the first option.
- Please also bear in mind that a class teacher in the pre-primary and primary school, is unlikely to be able to answer an email during the day; teaching in the class room always has priority.

Still on the topic of communication: As you may have noticed, our new website is currently in a test phase. Your feedback and suggestions are welcome.

Best regards

Heinz Fischböck