



1st September 2025

Dear Parents,

New Buddy Systems at Forest

Following the success of our pupil buddy systems over the past 16 years, we are delighted to share with you some exciting changes for this academic year. We have refreshed and expanded the programme to allow even more of our children to benefit from peer mentoring, coaching, and social and emotional learning, all part of core Character Education.

From this September, we will have three buddy systems running across the school:

Nursery and Year 6

Our youngest and oldest pupils will meet each Friday for a dedicated buddy time session. These weekly, focused activities will enable Nursery children to develop socially and emotionally, while our Year 6 pupils will hone strategies to prepare for greater independence. Oracy, the development of speaking and listening skills, will be a key learning area in this partnership.

Reception and Year 3

Reception and Year 3 pupils will meet every Thursday afternoon for a weekly themed session and practical activity. These sessions will be designed to promote teamwork, problem-solving, and creative thinking, with themes ranging from science exploration and storytelling to art projects and outdoor challenges. The aim is to give Reception pupils the confidence to explore new ideas alongside older role models, while Year 3 pupils develop leadership, empathy, and mentoring skills. Over the year, this partnership will aim to foster meaningful friendships and a strong sense of belonging across both year groups.

Year 1 and Year 5

This pairing will continue with the much-loved Reading Friends programme, which has run successfully at Forest for 15 years. Each Wednesday morning, younger pupils will read aloud to their older Reading Friend, engaging in verbal comprehension and discussion around the text.

We are confident these updated systems will deepen connections across the school, strengthen pupils' confidence, and create lasting friendships. We look forward to watching the children's characters flourish throughout the year in making Forest such a vibrant and caring community.

Yours sincerely,

G Booth

Graeme Booth
Headmaster