

Standing in the Grey Space - Reflections on the Start of Term

As summer gently yields to autumn, the leaves begin their turn, and the long-awaited rains finally start to fall (yay for farmers)—we find ourselves stepping once again into the unique, bustling space of a new school term.

For those of us working within and alongside schools, the start of September is rarely a simple return to routine. It is a sudden, powerful shift. For staff, it can feel like a wrench away from home, from their own families, and from the rest that was so desperately needed over the summer. Almost overnight, focus must pivot entirely back to their classrooms: to educating, protecting, loving, and meeting the needs of the children in their care. Yet, even as their attention is absorbed by their pupils, the pull of their own personal lives, families, and individual struggles remains. Holding both spaces at once requires an extraordinary amount of energy, care, and resilience. So, let us uphold teaching staff in prayer.

The beginning of term is a hodgepodge of change, anticipation, and deep emotional transition:

- **The Step Into the Unknown:** We watch the newest reception children step through the school gates, still so small, occasionally confused by the vastness of the school day, leaving parents at the gates wrestling with their own quiet anxieties.
- **The Milestone Transitions:** We see the new Year 7s taking their first big steps into secondary school, navigating new routines, logging into email accounts for the first time, and discovering their place in a much larger world.
- **The Thread of Continuity:** There is the incredible privilege of receiving messages from former Year 6s, now Year 7s, reaching out on Teams just to say hello, to share how their first few days have gone, and to remind us they are still there. To be sought out as a familiar anchor during a week of immense change is a profound joy.
- **Holding Space for Parents:** Beyond the pupils, our care extends to the parents. We hear parents wondering if their child arrived safely, asking, 'Is this normal? Do you think they are okay?' Part of our role is simply to normalize this unsettledness, offering a steady voice to parents navigating transition alongside their children.

Amidst all this change, the underlying realities of life do not pause. The ongoing safeguarding concerns, the practical needs of children who need to be fed, and the complex emotional demands of young lives continue uninterrupted.

Yet, to stand in this space, this grey, uncertain, unexpected space between summer and autumn, is an absolute honour, it's foundational Kingdom work. As a Trust, our presence is not always about having the perfect words for every uncertainty or rolling out the perfect programme, but instead, it's faith in action. In these moments, it is about being present, about having a servant heart. It is the privilege of sitting within that grey space, holding it with people in compassion, having our ears happily bent and giving the gift of listening, and bringing the love, light, care, and voice of Jesus directly into those situations.

To be His hands and feet alongside staff, students, and parents in these moments is a profound gift and one we give with generous hearts in the knowledge that His transformative grace is at work in us and through us in that place by His Spirit, bring His hope and healing.

As we step into this new academic year, we want to call on our wonderful community of supporters, especially those who have direct relationships with those in schools – children and adults, to join us:

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS TERM

- **Uphold School Communities in Prayer:**

Please pray for staff, pupils, and families navigating the anxieties and joys of this new term.

- **Consider Supporting Us Financially:**

Even if we are not currently serving in a school attended by your loved ones, the work we do across local schools is vital and in higher demand than ever. Yet, as a charity, we are currently at a financial crossroads. We want you to be part of the legacy that helps us remain in place serving, caring, speaking and loving in Jesus name into the future.

- **Partner With Our Mission:**

Whether by becoming a regular monthly giver, making a one-off donation, or organising a fundraiser in your local community or church, your financial support enables us to remain present in schools where our presence is so desperately needed. Or maybe you feel called to being a Trustee! It is a vital role and we are currently looking for a few key individuals to join the team. Why not get in touch and we can explain what it entails.

Thank you for your faithful partnership, your prayers, and your generosity as we bring hope and light into our school communities this autumn, helping young people to thrive.

Lord, hold school communities in your peace, blessing every heart that enters in. Be that steadfast presence that brings comfort

Grant rest to the weary and calm to the anxious

Fill corridors and hallways with Your warmth, light and grace

Be our anchor in the unknown and our hope in all things



Bibles for Year 6s at Radwinter

We were delighted to be asked again by Radwinter School, if we could provide bibles for their year six leavers.

Thanks to your generosity, each pupil received a Good News Bible as a memento of their time at Radwinter and as a guide for them as they begin a new chapter.

Thank you so much for making this possible!



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