



Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents,

We have launched the Flour Babies Project today and explained to year 7 how the project is designed to work. As you can imagine, there were many questions and a great deal of excitement. In summary, the project is based on Anne Fine's novel, 'Flour Babies' and its purpose is to teach children how to be fully responsible for something other than themselves. Having run this project on several occasions, the children really do enjoy it and learn much about the difficulties of being a parent.

I have attached the instruction manual for parental information and all of your children have also been provided with their own copy. Parents however, should note two important factors. Firstly, the children are expected to care for their own baby and there are specific restrictions on the use of babysitters, including how to negotiate costs. No money is to be exchanged but the children might exchange favours and parents should not be lumbered with the flour baby, even if you have become an overnight grandparent. Secondly, we have been clear with the children that a child with the latest buggy, designer sleepsuits or fashionable dummy is not necessarily the one who receives the most love and care. We have talked with the children about poverty and how some families cannot even afford nappies and so they need to improvise; another highly beneficial skill that they will learn. The priority is for them to care for their flour baby and so if your children request a Prada pram, please say no!

If you would like any further information about the project, either refer to the instruction manual or contact Sarah Parkin or me.

With best wishes,

Alexia Bolton  
**Head of Phase**