



21st June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Summer Term Newsletter No.1

It has been lovely to see so many happy, smiling faces after our return from half term and we have been so lucky with the weather (not counting today) - which always helps.

In a break from tradition, as part of my Head of School role, this is the first newsletter from myself rather than Gary. I have kept his format for now but may change it going into the next academic year. For now, I want to tell you about some things we have going on or that you might expect us to have going on over the next few weeks which may be different to normal.

Transition Days

We were hoping to run transition days this year as we used to. However, under new advice from the Government, we will be unable to run these in the traditional format. Instead, we will be asking our teachers to spend some time in the current class of the child getting to know them. We are still finalising our class lists for 2021-22 but I hope to be able to tell your child who their new teacher will be, at the very latest, by week commencing 5th July.

Sports Day

Again, under Government advice, we are unable to invite parents in for Sports Day this year. We are still working on our format for Sports Day but think it will take the format of a Sports week, with children taking part in Sports Day activities during their PE lesson from which, we will use timings to work out 1st/2nd/3rd places. This will allow us to celebrate sports day whilst maintaining bubble integrity.

Circus Week

We have been lucky enough to secure a circus skills workshop for this week, which would have been a camp week initially. All children across the school will have the chance over this week to learn some circus skills and have some fun in the process. This will be in their bubbles and equipment will be wiped down between each class.

School Photos

Class Group photos will be happening on 29th June. Please ensure your child is in school uniform on this day. We are unable to take a whole school photograph this year.

Rainbow Day

At the suggestion of one of our younger students, on 2nd July everyone is encouraged to wear brightly coloured clothes to celebrate inclusivity and diversity (we do not expect anyone to go out and buy a new outfit).



Virtual Parents Evening

Tuesday 13th July - Class Teachers holding a virtual parents evening.

All teachers will be in touch in the interim to arrange a 10 minute zoom slot each.

Parent Governor

I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to Dr Ben Marlow, who won the recent parent governor election. Ben is going to be an excellent addition to our local governing body and I look forward to working with him over the next few years.

Change to start of term date

In part due to having to cancel transition days, we have decided that Friday 3rd September will be the start of term only for students brand new to the school. This is to allow them the chance to get to see the school and settle into their new surroundings. A large proportion of this new cohort haven't even been able to do a school tour as part of consultation, so will be seeing their new school for the very first time this day.

All existing students will be returning to school on **Monday 6th September**. I am working on the format for that initial week but it is likely to run more as a transition week with lots of getting to know you activities rather than straight into schoolwork. The academic year for 2021/2022 is attached.

General Reminders

- Please ensure you phone the school office with all absences. There is an answerphone if the office is not currently manned.
- Although we ask that you do not book holidays in school time wherever possible, on the odd occasion where it may be necessary please put all requests in writing to the school office (this will save the embarrassment of unwanted phone calls when you are off enjoying yourselves). We will reply in writing accordingly.
- For the few parents/carers not yet signed up to SimsPay, please help us in our bid to become a cashless school by contacting Gemma in the front office and she will help you to get set up.
- Sun cream - on hot days, please apply the first coat of sun cream at home.

Class Dojo Consultation

As you are aware, we had to make the decision to very quickly come off Dojo in the Spring term. This was due to changes to the Privacy Shield, which protects how Data is shared with the US. We have been looking for an alternative to Dojo since. To be honest, there is little out there that will do the same as Dojo did. We have trialled some alternatives but have not been that impressed with what we have found.

We have been working with our Data Protection Officer to produce a Data Protection Impact Assessment for Class Dojo, which I have attached. I would like to propose returning to Class Dojo as our school communication app, possibly from July but certainly from September. If you would like to comment on this, please contact me via the school and we can have a chat.

We have consulted staff already and they are broadly in favour of a return to Dojo, perhaps with some tighter guidance around times they will be active on it to respond to messages.

That is it for now, enjoy the sun (when it returns!)

Sincerely



Ruth
Head of School

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