



SIAMS Outstanding
Church School

Old Hutton C of E School

- A DfE National Support School

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Monday, 20 January 2020

Early Spring Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!

A slightly belated Happy New Year and welcome back everyone! I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas. I can report that all classes have quickly settled back into routines during the first 2 weeks of the new term and year and have got off to a great start – please find the latest school news, events coming up and some reminders to note below...

New pupil news

A very special welcome goes to our new Y5 pupil, Ben and his family, who joined us at the start of this term. We now have a total of 95 pupils on roll.

School organisation and new staff news

Joining our teaching staff this term we have welcomed **Mrs Jude Parsons**, who is teaching in Class 2 on Wednesdays and Thursdays, as Mrs Hopkins has now reduced her teaching time to 3 days a week. **Miss Katie Brown** has joined us this term as teaching assistant in Class 2 on Monday mornings and as teacher/subject leader of Computing across the school on Monday afternoons – including leading our exciting new after-school Code Club for Y5/6. Following interviews in the first week of term, **Mrs Alison North** has just joined our teaching assistant staff in Classes 2 and 3 Monday-Friday mornings, Monday and Wednesday afternoons and is midday supervisor on Mondays. We also welcome **Miss Corrie Reynard**, student teacher on the Kendal School Direct PGCE programme, who is joining the Class 1 team for the next 5 weeks.

We are continuing for the rest of this term with the same **leadership structure** as last term. I am still working for the Cumbria Learning Improvement as adviser alongside my head teacher role, being in school as head teacher for 2 days each week (usually Mondays and Fridays) and out of school, working as an advisor supporting other schools across Cumbria usually for 3 days weekly. **Mrs Fiona Hadwin** continues in the role of Assistant Head teacher for 4 days, Monday-Thursday, and is in charge of school most of the time when I am out. **Mrs Caroline Hopkins** is now in charge on Tuesday afternoons. This structure is working well as an exciting development opportunity for us as staff, is bringing an extremely useful additional income into school and enables us to continue to share our best practice with others.

Morning and end of the day routines news

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the routine for coming into school in the mornings. We began this arrangement at the start of last term in the interests of safeguarding and health and safety, as well as to improve the timing of our morning lesson start, which should be at 9:00am prompt for all pupils. As our pupil numbers have grown, our relatively small building, including entrance, corridors and classrooms, gets extremely congested and busy with bodies coming in and out of school at the start and end of the day. We feel that we have alleviated this to some extent with the following arrangements, but improvements could still be made. In particular, we have found that pupils are often not **arriving in time (8:50am) to be met in the yard and brought into school by their teachers.**

All pupils should **arrive by 8:50am** and wait in the front school yard.

Class 4: at 8:50am Miss Harrison will come out to collect Y5/6 pupils from the front yard and pupils will enter school with their teacher via the side door which leads to their classroom.

Classes 2 and 3: at 8:50am Mrs Angus and Mrs Hopkins/Mrs Parsons will come out to collect Y2/3 (Mrs Hopkins/Mrs Parsons) and Y4 (Mrs Angus) and pupils will enter school with their teachers via the front door. **For Classes 2, 3 and 4, we ask that parents/carers please say goodbye to their children in the front yard and leave them to enter school with their teachers.**

Class 1: at 8:50am Mrs Hayes (or Miss Tapper on Wednesdays) will come out to collect R/Y1 pupils and, after Class 2 and 3 pupils have entered the building, she will lead pupils in via the main entrance door – parents/carers of Class 1 are also still welcome to come in as well for a few minutes, if they wish, but **please leave by 9:00am prompt**.

If you arrive after the classes have gone in, Class 4 pupils should be sent into school via the side Class 4 door, which will remain open until 9:00am. Pupils of Classes 2 and 3 (**not parents, please**) should be sent in via the main door, which will remain unlocked until 9:00am. After this time, anyone arriving late for any reason should buzz at the main door (which will be locked) and enter via the office.

All teachers will come out into the yard at 8:50am to collect pupils, so if you need to speak to them briefly to pass on any messages before school starts, they will be available then. If you wish to pass on any longer messages or discuss anything further, please get in touch via the office and if needed, an appointment can always be made with the class teacher at a mutually convenient time. We are proud of our 'open door' policy, which means that we are always happy to speak to parents/carers, share information and work in partnership with you, however, we hope that you will help us to continue to work to improve our morning routines with these arrangements.

At the end of the school day, we ask that all parents/carers please wait in the front school yard to collect your children. All class teachers will come out with their classes. Class 4 will use their own classroom door, Classes 3 and 2 will use the front entrance and Class 1 will leave via their own classroom door and the Reception outdoor play area. School staff will remain in charge of pupils on the top of the ramp (Classes 2/3), Class 4 steps, or in Class 1 until parents/carers are seen.

For safeguarding reasons, please ensure that you inform the office in advance of any changes to who will be collecting your child/ren at the end of the day, or if you wish to use after school club (see below), or if there are changes to your child's attendance at any of our extra-curricular clubs. Please also get in touch if you wish your Y5/6 child to walk home unaccompanied – we can only approve this arrangement in discussion with parents/carers and need to have information in writing beforehand.

Arrangements for **pupils using the school bus** will continue as usual, with school staff supervising their arrival and departure.

Breakfast and After-School Club news

We would like to continue to encourage you to make use of our excellent wrap-around care offer, which includes Breakfast and After-School Club daily Monday–Fridays. **Both clubs offer a great way of helping reduce parking pressure and traffic congestion around the school and village at the start and end of the school day, as well as those busy areas in school!** **Breakfast Club** is run by **Mrs Caroline Birch** Monday-Wednesday and **Miss Tallia Rodrigues** Thursday and Friday, with Mrs Kirstie Halliwell supporting each day from 8:30am. **After-School Club: Mrs Natalie Gaunt** is in charge on Mondays and both **Mrs Gaunt and Miss Rodrigues** are in charge Tuesdays to Fridays. Details as follows:

Full Breakfast Club (including breakfast meal): 8:00-8:50am daily, £4

Half Breakfast Club (no meal): 8:30-8:50am daily, £1

ASC (including snack): 3:20-5:20pm daily, £10 for 2 hours, £5 for 1 hour

Please let us know in the office at least a week in advance if you wish to book a place. Payment is charged weekly via ParentPay online. Payments must not be outstanding for more than 4 weeks. **Please ensure that drop-off and pick-up times are prompt, in line with the timings above.** Late pick-ups may incur late charges. Many thanks.

Helpers in School

We always welcome any offers of help in school from parents or other family and community members! Regular helpers to support small groups with spelling, handwriting and reading practice work in our early morning English Activities carousel or to hear readers during the day in each class are especially welcome. Please get in touch with class teachers or the office to let us know if you are able to help in this way, or if there are any other times or skills you would be keen to share with us. Thank You!

Extra-Curricular Clubs News

Thanks to the support of our staff, volunteers (including some keen pupil leaders for their own Comic Club!) and additional providers, we are pleased to be able to continue to offer this term **our huge range of lunchtime/after school clubs** to enhance our extra-curricular provision! We have continued to offer more clubs to meet pupil, parent and staff requests, as well as focus on our ongoing care for the well-being of our whole school community. We continue to make a charge to parents of £1 per session for all after-school clubs run by additional providers to help us cover costs. **Please refer to the letter sent out in the first week of term for more details about the clubs.** We are pleased to add that there

will be 2 more clubs starting after half term: another Mapwork Club run by Mrs Yolande Nelson and, following the massive hit made by our Rock Band in the Christmas Service at the end of last term, a brand new Rock School Club will begin, run by Mr Ric French for his guitar/drum pupils – more details about this will follow via Mr French to his pupils.

Music Lessons

As usual, we continue to offer a wide range of peripatetic music tuition for pupils to learn the extremely valuable skill of playing one or more instruments. **Please see the additional letter which went out at the start of term and contact our music teachers directly to sign up for any new instrument lessons.** It is wonderful to have so many budding young musicians in school this year!

PTA update

The PTA raises money each year for the school - the money raised subsidises transport costs for school trips, guest speakers, events held in school and lots of other fun things for your children. The PTA really needs new members and volunteers for fund raising events throughout the year. If you can spare some time, please can you contact their Chair, Claire Mansfield on clairejanem@icloud.com

News from the Governors

Happy New Year from the Governors of Old Hutton C of E Primary. We hope this year will be a very successful one for all the families at Old Hutton! As Governors, we are responsible for overseeing the management side of school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. We support the Headteacher and her team to run the school as effectively as possible with all of us working together to provide excellent education for our children.

At our last Governors meeting, we discussed the opportunity of parents and carers having more connection with the Governors of the school and we came up with the idea of having a suggestion box in school. Here you can suggest or comment on any aspect of the school for the Governors to consider. For example, this could be curriculum, well-being, visits/visitors/events, access to resources, fundraising, extra-curricular offer and so on. The suggestion box will be located in the foyer of school and to trial the idea, it will be there from Monday for 6 weeks.

Car parking safety news and reminders

We are shortly to have a **new disabled parking space** marked out in front of the Village Hall; many thanks to the Village Hall Committee for enabling us to do this. Last Monday, at the end of the school day, the school premises, church car park and adjacent road were visited by a group of councillors from the parish, district and county as well as representatives from the highways department and police, in order to have a **site meeting to observe our traffic issues**. Hopefully, we will have further news about new initiatives to help us improve things soon. In the meantime, as always, please can we remind everyone to show consideration to others, including our neighbours in the village, by **driving slowly and cautiously in the school vicinity and avoiding parking in front of all the private properties opposite the school and around the village. It is dangerous and illegal to park on the yellow zigzag lines in front of school.** Please try your best to park sensibly, be courteous to local residents and **always take extra care of the children and yourselves when getting in and out of vehicles, crossing the road and walking to and from school** before and after school. Do try to make use of our before and after school clubs and activities and car-sharing to help **reduce the number of cars around at peak times**. Please can we also remind drivers, in the interest of reducing pollution and harm to health, to **avoid parking with engines left running in the car park and/or school vicinity**. Thank you.

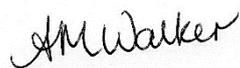
Topics for the term, events and diary updates

We have begun another very busy term, with lots of exciting topic work and events to look forward to! Across school, the Science/Geography-based main focus is **Animals (including humans)**, with Class 1 having a particular look at underwater/sea animals. We have plans for some lovely animal-focussed visits and visitors coming up, beginning with a visit from **Jamie Normington of Cumbria Wildlife Trust** this Friday to launch the **RSPB Big Birdwatch Weekend** for us – look out for more information coming home later this week to enable all of you to take part in this important annual, national event! Class 4 are also studying **Ancient Greece** in History and we have a very exciting, special **visit for Y6 to London today to study our British Values, democracy and the rule of law, first-hand by visiting the Houses of Parliament and also to visit Westminster Abbey** and see Buckingham Palace! RE themes across school include **Buddhism, Islam** (through establishing an exciting new link with, Olive Blackburn, a Muslim school in Blackburn) and **Christianity**, including **Lent and Easter**. Our whole-school Christian Value this term is **Hope** and our Multi-faith Day will focus on signs and symbols. Thanks to our additional funding, we continue to be able to offer **yoga** across school and **Forest School in KS2**, including Y5/6 working towards their **John Muir Trust Award** this term. KS2 are also working hard in Music and Dance lessons towards taking part in the **Big Play, Big Sing (Y3/4) and Brewery Dance Platform (Y5/6)** events coming up towards the end of term. We have special focus weeks/events planned for **Children's Mental Health Week, World Book Day/week** – this year we will focus on **Comics**, Comic Art and characters, and a **Sport/Olympics Week**.

As always, if you or your family or friends have any resources or ideas to share with us relevant to our topic work or activities, please let us know.

See below for an updated list of events, including those specially mentioned above, for your diary planned so far for the term. Further event details will be available nearer the time and please also note that some dates may still just be provisional and that others will be added later.

With best wishes from,



Andrea Walker
Head teacher

Diary dates

Monday 20th January	Year 6 visit to Parliament & Westminster Abbey, London
Thursday 23rd January	Tullie House Assembly – Chinese New Year Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Friday 24th January	Jamie Normington from Cumbria Wildlife Trust – in school all morning: animal & birdwatch workshops RSPB Big Birdwatch weekend – All encouraged to get involved at home over weekend!
Monday 27th January	KS1 Gymnastics Festival @ QKS
Thursday 30th January	Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Monday 3rd February	Children’s mental health week – special events/activities all week in school Claire Griffel – visit to all classes during afternoon with Senegal link news
Thursday 6th February	Mindfulness workshops, Whole school, Konflux theatre Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Tuesday 11th February	Library book bus visit in school 9.15am
Thursday 13th February	Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Friday 14th February	PTA Cake stall after school
Monday 17th February	HALF TERM
Monday 24th February	SCHOOL BEGINS AGAIN FOR 2ND HALF OF SPRING TERM Multifaith Day – signs and symbols theme
Thursday 27th February	Pupil Parliament Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME! Governors’ Peer Support Network meeting – Grange Primary School 5-7.30pm
Tuesday 3rd March	Comic Art Masterclass – KS2
Wednesday 4th March	Swimming continues weekly for YR3&4 9am – Leisure Centre
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day – activities TBC later Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Friday 6th March	Tullie House Assembly – Exploring our oceans
Monday 9th March	Sports & Health Week – activities TBC later Sports for Champions fundraising & celebrity visitor YR3&4 The Big Play, Brewery Arts Centre - (date TBC)
Tuesday 10th March	YR3&4 The Big Play, Brewery Arts Centre - (date TBC) Full Governor Meeting 6.30-7.30pm
Thursday 12th March	Tullie House Assembly – Natural England Habitats Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!
Tuesday 17th March	NSPCC safety talk – WEAR SOMETHING GREEN DAY!
Thursday 19th March	Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME! Parents’ Evening 1
Friday 20th March	PTA Cake stall after school
Monday 23rd March	Open Afternoon 1.30-3.20pm – ALL WELCOME! Parents’ Evening 2
Tuesday 24th March	KS2 Quicksticks Hockey Tournament @ QKS Moving up information evening for YR5 KKS

Thursday 26th March

Dance Platform YR5&6

Open The Book in Church 2.55pm - ALL WELCOME!

Friday 27th March

Easter Service in Church 1.10-1.50pm – ALL WELCOME!

TERM ENDS AT 2PM

School Year dates 2019-20

Spring Term 2020

Tuesday 7th January – Friday 27th March

Half Term Holiday: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

Summer Term 2020

Good Friday Holiday: Friday 10th April

Easter Monday Holiday: Monday 13th April

Tuesday 14th April – Friday 17th July

Early May Bank Holiday: Friday 8th May

Half Term Holiday: Monday 25th – Friday 29th May

School Year dates 2020-21

Autumn Term 2020

Staff training day Tuesday 1st September

Staff training day Wednesday 2nd September

Thursday 3rd September – Friday 18th December

Half Term Holiday: Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Spring Term 2020

Staff training day Monday 4th January

Tuesday 5th January – Friday 26th March

Half Term Holiday: Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February

Summer Term 2021

Monday 12th April – Friday 16th July

Good Friday Holiday: Friday 2nd April

Easter Monday: Monday 5th April

Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May

Half Term Holiday: Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June