

Old Hutton C of E School

Old Hutton, Kendal, Cumbria, LA8 0NQ

Email: admin@oldhutton.cumbria.sch.uk

Website: www.oldhuttonschool.org.uk

Tel (01539) 732778

Headteacher: Mrs Andrea Walker BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH, LLE, NLE

Friday 18th December, 2020

End of Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the end of the most challenging term and year finally arrives and Christmas is almost upon us, here is our final newsletter of 2020. A HUGE thank you to all in our school community for your ongoing support, patience and understanding and for everything you have all done to help us safely achieve a full term of school for all our pupils – amazingly with no bubble closures! - in the midst of the global pandemic. What an achievement! I am so proud of our fantastic staff team and all our fabulous pupils for their ongoing hard work and resilience in the face of so many challenges. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the many Christmas cards and kind wishes and gifts we have received in school and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, albeit a very different one from what we are all used to! I hope you enjoy a safe, wonderful, well-deserved holiday – with a reminder to please do your best to follow all the latest Government advice and restrictions in order to keep yourselves, your families and our wider community as safe as possible at this time and enable a safe return to school for all in January.

Staff news

First, I would like to share a belated special congratulations to **Hannah Hayes**, our part-time TA in the Class 1 /2 Double Bubble, on her marriage to Dan during the October half term holiday. We wish them all the best for their future together! Hannah now becomes **Mrs Mallinson-Hayes**.

Today, we said goodbye to **Miss Rachel Mills** and a big thank you for all her work and support as part-time Teaching Assistant, Breakfast/After School Club leader and Midday Supervisor in Class 1 and 2 / the Double Bubble over the last year. We wish her good luck for the future. We are also saying farewell to **Ms Emma Robertson** as TA/artist in residence in the Double Bubble weekly on Fridays, as she is taking on another teaching post; we will not be completely losing her amazing creative talents however, as Emma will be returning to lead a special Art Day for us each half term, including her popular After School Art Club – more details later of these dates. Next term, **Mrs Mallinson-Hayes** will be increasing her time as TA in Class 1 and we have appointed a new TA, **Miss Stephanie Wise**, to join the Double Bubble team in Class 2. Miss Wise will be taking over the Double Bubble Breakfast Club on Fridays and After School Club on Mondays and Thursdays; other Breakfast Clubs over the week will be run by Mrs Halliwell/Mrs Hayes and other ASCs by Mrs Halliwell.

We have benefitted from hosting 2 **student teachers** this term, **Karl Wakeman**, in Class 1, who will return to work with us again in the Summer Term and **Mrs Catherine Altouyan**, who completed a very successful placement in Class 4.

Pupil news

Sadly, this term we have said goodbye to 3 families: the Irelands (Harry Y1, Noah Y3), the Niels (Noah Y6, Maya Y3) and the Harrisons (Charlotte Y5, Gracie Y3) – we wish them all good luck with their moves and for the future.

December / Christmas events and learning news

Please see our **Facebook** page (also available to view via the school website) and **Google Classroom / Tapestry** (Classrooms and Spiritual Space) to view and find out more about lots of the exciting learning that has been happening in and around our school bubbles. Although we have missed many of our usual Christmas events and trips, OHS has certainly still made the festive season sparkle with a host of different, but equally special activities! Our Class Bubbles all became **Baubles** at the start of Advent and each one has enjoyed many events including creating their own versions of **Christingle** (huge thanks to Reverend Angela and Reverend Craig for organising this for us!) and of the **Nativity** (a tremendous traditional version presented by the Class 1 and 2 Double Bauble, beautiful shoebox model versions and

interviews with Nativity characters in Class 3 and a wonderful alternative version brilliantly written by Miss Harrison and performed with such fun and confidence by Class 4). We hope that you have enjoyed seeing the online versions of all of these; we think that the special joy of this year is that while you could not share them live with us, you can keep watching on repeat! Many thanks to all staff who have helped in organising these events and also the Bauble **Christmas parties** and virtual pantomimes this week.

PTA news

A HUGE thank you to the PTA for all their support this term – they have provided our **online Christmas pantomime - including ice cream** to enjoy while watching, **Christmas card fundraiser** and **Christmas Ragtag art kits** for all pupils.

Fundraising events

This half term, the whole school raised funds for **Children in need** organised by the School Council – well done everyone for raising £137.50! Thank you to everyone who donated **Boxes of Hope** in our annual collection sending gifts at Christmas out to needy children in Eastern Europe. We also enjoyed taking part in **National Christmas Jumper Day**, raising £110.50 for Save The Children.

Car parking safety news and reminders

School is continuing to work with both the County and Parish Councils to try to improve our ongoing issues with parking around school; we will keep you updated with any news on developments, led by our Governor working group. We are however, very pleased that there has been a positive impact on the congestion at busy times due to our staggered starts and ends to the school day this term. 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 other families and 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. Do try to make use of our wraparound care to help reduce the number of cars around at peak times and keep to the bubble times and rules to enable everything to run smoothly and safely. 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.

Book care reminder

Please can we remind all families to **take extra care of the reading books** pupils borrow from school and take home on a weekly basis. Unfortunately, many of these are being regularly returned to us in a damaged state and also some are getting lost / not returned on time. We are about to buy some lovely new reading books for our Class 1 – 3 bubbles and need to ensure they will stay beautiful! In order to share our books properly, please can everyone ensure that all books are respected and that they are all returned on time each week. Pupils have been reminded about this in school. Please check that you have no additional books which belong in school still at home from previous borrowings and send them back in asap next term. Book bags are also the best way to transport your books to and from school, rather than unprotected or in lunch boxes/bags. Thank you.

Plans for next term

We are already planning ahead with our new topics for next term. Across the whole school, we will focus in different ways on the Science -based theme of **Space**, in Science and DT all classes will also study **Materials**, in RE we will focus on **Christianity**, in Geography we will revisit **Africa and our Senegal link**, Classes 1 and 2 will also study **seasons /weather /climate and dinosaurs**, Class 3 **Ancient Egypt** and Class 4 a special project on **the UK's journey to democracy**.

Reminder: next term starts for all pupils on Tuesday 5th January (with a special wellbeing day for all staff on Monday 4th). We will be continuing with our current bubble arrangements and timings until further notice.

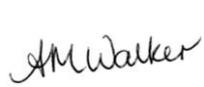
Parental support

This year has been incredibly hard for a lot of families. Action For Children are available over the Festive period to help and support families. Here are some details below, if you feel you need to reach out to someone. Parent Support Line: Telephone 01539 734456

Its #Ok2Ask for help if you are struggling over the Christmas holidays

Action For Children staff are available to give information, advice, support and signposting to other services as needed. Phone and request a call back via phone or MS TEAMS
Lines open 21st – 24th December and 29th – 31st December, 10am – 5pm (until 7.30pm on Wednesdays). Take care of yourselves.

With best wishes for a blessed Christmas and happy and hopeful new year 2021 from,



Andrea Walker
Head teacher

Diary Dates for Spring Term 2021

Friday 18th December	TERM ENDS AT 2PM (no extra-curricular clubs, no after school club)
Monday 4th January	Staff wellbeing day
Tuesday 5th January	Spring term starts
Monday 15th February	HALF TERM
Monday 22nd February	SCHOOL BEGINS AGAIN FOR 2 ND HALF SPRING TERM
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 16th March	Full Governors meeting
Monday 22nd March	YR5 moving up evening at KKS
Friday 26th March	TERM ENDS AT 2PM

School Year dates 2020-21

Spring Term 2021

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