



Old Hutton C of E School

- A DfE National Support School

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Friday 17th July, 2020

End of Summer Term newsletter including news about September re-opening to all pupils

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

As we finally reach the end of our most unusual Summer Term, and definitely the most challenging school year we have ever experienced, I would like to take this opportunity to say a **HUGE thank you to everyone in our whole school team and community** for your ongoing patience and support and the incredible way in which you have all adapted, faced and responded to the Covid-19 crisis. Together, we have done our best to ensure that the children of Old Hutton have stayed connected, inspired and motivated. I am sure that everyone is looking forward more than ever before to having a well-deserved Summer break! And I hope that all of you can enjoy a lovely, if somewhat different to normal, holiday time together, before we make a **full return to school in September** (for more on this, see the last section of this letter and a more detailed letter of the information you will need, which will be sent out next week).

Leavers' news

We are very **sad to say goodbye to our fantastic 15 Y6 pupils, Abigail, Layla, Frankie, Connor, Isaac, Coen, Elisha, Caitlyn, Grace, Leah, Zachary, Tyler, Jacquelyn, Archie and Euan**, but wish them all good luck for the future as they move on to Secondary school in September. They have been a particularly special group, as most of them have been together with us for the whole of their time in primary school since joining in Reception and even together since Pre-School, so we have made many, many happy memories together! Although we missed our usual end of year events, many of these pupils have been with us in the Class 4 bubble group since June and it was wonderful to see all of them return to school yesterday for the **special leavers' day** of events organized by Miss Harrison and Mrs Birch. They enjoyed most of our usual leavers' traditions, including a (socially-distanced!) favourite game of rounders, sharing some lovely presents – including gorgeous 2020 leavers hoodies designed by themselves (with a bit of help from the PTA!), a very special virtual service led by Rev Angela and Rev Craig and evocative photo story presentation which celebrated their whole time in school with us, including both very funny and tear-jerking moments! Both the service and powerpoint have been posted on Google Classroom to share with everyone and will be emailed home to Y6 families also. Thank you to everyone who gave gifts or organized events which all contributed to making this leavers' day so special!

It is especially sad for us to be saying **goodbye to 10 of our families** who leave us as their Y6 children move on this year: the Chapman, Dennison, Donnini, Edwards, Ellis, Handley, Hutchinson, Lowrey-Evans, Onyango and Ridding families. Thank you so much to all of you for your wonderful support over the years – it has been lovely to get to know you all and a real privilege to work with you to support your children's journeys through primary school. Good luck for the future and please do keep in touch!

The **PTA**, together with our whole school community, would also like to say an extra special thanks to **Sharon White, Kathryn Chapman, Amy Donnini and Amy Sturt**, for all their hard work and support as key members of the PTA over their years with us in school.

We are also saying goodbye to **2 pupils** and their families who are leaving this year from lower down the school, Sam (R) and Mikey (Y2). Good luck in your house moves and new schools!

4 members of staff are leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Hopkins (Class 2 teacher) is retiring from teaching after an amazing 19 years at OHS, but returning to become ASC leader in September (we could

not let her leave completely just yet!); **Miss Tapper** (Class 3 Science teacher, Class 1 teacher on Wednesday mornings and part-time TA) is moving to Devon; **Mrs Gaunt** (TA in Classes 1, 2 and 3) is leaving to train to become a teacher; and **Mrs Carr** (part-time TA in Class 1) is also leaving us. They were presented with special gifts in school this week and were thanked for the excellent work they have done in our school over their time with us – we will miss them, but wish them all the best of luck as they move on to their new roles and adventures.

End of year results and reports

We hope that you have this week received by email and enjoyed reading your children's end of year reports. By necessity, due to losing a whole term of normal teaching, these have had to be a little shorter than usual this year and, for pupils in Y1-6, only reported in detail on pupil's personal and wellbeing development and on their achievements and effort in English and in Maths, with some additional comments to cover aspects of the wider curriculum. They were based on our last formal assessment point, which was the end of the Spring Term. We are thrilled to share the fact that, although there have been no formal end of Key Stage assessments or SAT tests this year, **all pupils in Y6 had at least met or exceeded their targets** set for these already in assessments made at the end of the Spring Term – and altogether, these results are very high and above previous county and national figures for achievement and progress at the end of KS2, in common with OHS results of previous years – which is fantastic! Also, the majority of **pupils in Y2 and Reception** were, by the end of Spring Term, on track to meet targets for their end of KS1 or EYFS assessments, which again also matches previous years of high achievement in school at KS1 and EYFS and exceeds county and national figures. Well done everyone, including the hardworking pupils, all families for your ongoing support and our inspiring and dedicated staff team!

Transition days

Following the success of our re-opening school to some pupils (those with EHCP, children of key workers, pupils in R, Y1 and Y6) in bubble groups since June, we have in July managed a **very successful wider re-opening to other pupils Y2-5 via transition days, plus the special leavers' day for Y6**. We have been thrilled by the response to this offer and the take-up by the majority of families across each year group. The enthusiasm of our pupils on returning to school has been fantastic to see and has made us all feel very positive and excited about our September return. These days have enabled pupils to spend some valuable time back in school again and to be with the teachers, some of the other staff and pupils they will be working with in their new year groups and classes next term.

New pupils

It has been lovely to be able to welcome **3 new pupils** and their families to school during the last few weeks. They have joined us either as part of a bubble group or transition day: Rupert (joined the current Y1 cohort), Rafferty (joined current Y3) and Matthew (will be with Y3 in September).

Learning at home

Our key priority, alongside safely re-opening the school building, has been to maintain our on-going provision of remote learning for all pupils at home, via **Google Classroom** and our regular phone contact with families. We are very pleased with how this system has been working and we hope you are too! Please note that there have been **some activities and reminders for the holidays (e.g. keep up with your reading and learning of number facts/times tables!)** put in the Google Classrooms this week, but then our regular posts will cease as we all have a well-deserved break over the summer. Although you are encouraged to make use of the fantastic banks of learning resources and ideas which have now built up on there for revision of learning or ideas to inspire or keep your children busy at any time – especially on a rainy day! We have also shared learning packs/ideas via our transition days/Google Classroom and these will be posted out to those of you who have not been in to school. We will be continuing and further developing our online learning platform next term and onwards, integrating it more with the work we do in school and for homework, and having it ready to continue to deliver home learning should pupils need to access this if we have future school closures or if families need to isolate. **The provision of a high quality remote curriculum which still enables all pupils to make good progress is now an essential Government expectation on all schools** to have in place from next term, ready to take over immediately from school-based learning, should pupils need it. To this end, early in September, we will be conducting a survey of all families to establish your ability to access our online learning from home and how we can try to overcome any issues you may have with this.

Revised curriculum plans

Staff have been very busy this term working on revisions and improvements to our whole school curriculum planning and assessment systems. Our revised long term plans will be shared soon on Google Classroom and the school website. For next term, topics to be covered include: the whole school theme, **'Around the World'**, with focus on transport, war and peace including World Wars I and II, materials, forces, food and cooking.

Plans for a full return to school in September

At the start of July, Government published guidance for the **full re-opening of all schools in September**. Although still subject to change dependent on the Covid-19 situation over the coming weeks, staff and Governors have now put a detailed plan together for our school, based on a very robust risk assessment. The main points to take note of are listed below:

- Government has stated that it will be **compulsory for all pupils** to return to school from the start of term in September; the usual, pre-Covid-19 rules on school attendance will apply
- Government requires all schools to return to providing a **full educational and care experience for all pupils** that enables them to thrive and progress, our 'broad and ambitious' curriculum, but with some flexibility to give greater focus to wellbeing and to prioritising any gaps in learning and catch-up needed in the essentials (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and maths). This will be supported by further development and integration into daily lessons and homework of our online curriculum via Google Classroom, as mentioned above
- School will **not run or look like our 'normal', pre-June organisation** – most of the new procedures and protective measures we have established over the past 2 months will remain or be slightly adapted to enable us to meet the new risk assessments required to keep 94 pupils and our full staff as safe as we possibly can while in school
- We will **continue the protective measures currently in place** which aim to prevent and safely respond to any infection in school: ensuring those with the Covid-19 virus or symptoms, or those who have anyone in their household who has these, do not attend school; frequent hand washing or sanitizing; ensuring good respiratory hygiene – catch it, bin it, kill it; enhanced cleaning through the day and deep cleaning weekly; minimising contact between individuals and maintaining social distancing whenever possible; staff wearing appropriate PPE when necessary; responding swiftly to any infection or illness in school by following established procedures and working with the NHS test and trace and PHE team advice
- Before starting back in September, pupils and parents will be asked to sign up to a **revised Covid-19 Code of Conduct** to demonstrate that you all understand and agree to the protective measures and rules we have had to put in place to keep everyone safe
- School will be **organised to limit contacts between individuals into 3 bubble groups**, which will be kept separate across the day with staggered starts/ends of the day, separate breaks and lunchtimes and with separate staff teams for each bubble; neither pupils nor staff will mix between bubbles once in school
- **Our 3 bubble groups will be as follows:**
 - **Class 1 (R) & Class 2 (Y1/2) bubble (35 pupils altogether; 14 in Class 1, 21 in Class 2) 9:20am start – 3pm finish**
 - **Class 3 (Y3/4) bubble (29 pupils) 8:50am start – 3:15pm finish**
 - **Class 4 (Y5/6) bubble (30 pupils) 9:05am start – 3:30pm finish**
- To limit contacts between families and waiting times, those with **more than 1 child** should drop off all their children at once, at the time of their earliest bubble class start, and collect all children at their latest bubble finish time; staff will care for any siblings in bubbles until/after their bubble start/finish times as needed
- There will be a **distancing procedure to follow for all parents** at drop-off and collection times
- The **school bus service will be running** for those who normally use it, with new safety measures in place e.g. pupils sitting in bubble groups with set places each day; regular cleaning. Timings for bus arrival and departure will match those of school, with pupils being cared for by staff in their separate bubbles before/after class bubble start/finish times if needed
- Lunches for all pupils will initially need to be **packed lunches from home** – this is because, due to Covid-19 lockdown staffing issues, our new lunch provider unfortunately will not have the capacity to provide these for us in September. Hopefully, this situation will improve and we can offer lunches again soon. Lunches will be eaten in bubble classrooms, not in the Village Hall
- School **uniform will be as normal**, although you will need to ensure it is washed very regularly. On PE days, we will ask that pupils come dressed ready in **PE kit** with a lightweight waterproof

coat suitable to exercise in if needed. As we need to do PE outdoors as far as possible, please ensure that your child/ren have long jogging bottoms/leggings to wear and a robust pair of trainers

- **Breakfast and After School Club provision will be offered**, for the usual times (from 8am and up to 5:20pm) run by staff within each bubble – parents/carers will be expected to let us know if you wish to book places at least 1 week in advance to enable us to provide staffing and guarantee a place; you will not be able to ask for this provision at short notice
- Some **visiting expert staff** (e.g. class music, forest schools, sports and art teachers) will continue to work in school, in order to help maintain our excellent wider curriculum provision, but restricted to working within one bubble each; they will also provide some extra-curricular clubs for their own bubbles
- We expect most of our usual **peripatetic music staff** to be providing 1-1 or small group tuition in school, with pupils grouped within bubble groups and following additional safety measures.

These are just the key points to share for now. **Further, more detailed information with everything you will need to know about our plans for the start of next term, will follow in another letter which will be emailed to you early next week.** A further letter will be sent out towards the end of the summer holiday, as a reminder of the plans and/or to inform you of any changes that have been necessary to make. Please do note that our plans and risk assessments are under constant review and are subject to change at any point due to circumstances beyond our control and the directives and advice we receive.

We understand that many of you will feel apprehensive about the September situation – we do too! But please keep your trust in us; we have been successful so far in our management of a partial return to school and have the very best interests of your children and all in our school and wider community in mind as we work to achieve a full school recovery. Our decisions now and going forward will continue to be based on a thorough assessment of risks and the advice we receive from Government, CCC and PHE, and as always, will have the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils, staff and families at the heart of everything we do.

Stay safe and enjoy a super summer!

With best wishes from,



Andrea Walker
Head teacher

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 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