



Old Hutton C of E School

- A DfE National Support School

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Wednesday, 11 November 2020

November Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done everyone for making an excellent start to our second half term of the school year and also for coping with this alongside going into our second national lockdown from November 5th – but this time with schools remaining open. Thank you again to all in our school community for your ongoing support, patience and understanding at this difficult time. Here are some news items and reminders to share with all families.

Staff news

Last week, we welcomed **Mr Thomas Benn** as a new **TA for the Class 4 bubble**, taking over from Mrs Birch. Tom is in Class 4 full days Monday to Thursdays, including supervising **After School Club** Monday to Wednesday. As he is a qualified sports coach, we are also going to make use of Tom's skills to lead on PE in Class 4, as well as begin an additional Sports Club after school for Class 4 pupils soon.

Mrs Alison North, who currently works as a TA in Class 4, has taken over as **Breakfast Club** supervisor Mondays to Wednesdays.

IMPORTANT routines reminders / updates– please note!

In order to help control the spread of Covid-19, keep everyone safe and keep our school open, it is essential that outside of school, families follow the new rules around staying at home, avoiding unnecessary travel and other guidance from Government issued on November 5th (for details see www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november).

- There has been **no change required to our current systems and risk assessments** in school, beyond the need to check that any pupils or staff who were previously identified as '**clinically extremely vulnerable**' on medical grounds are still safe to be in school; if you feel that your child is in this category, please let us know and contact your GP for clarification.
- **It is now even more essential for our systems to work safely that all families keep PROMPTLY to your bubble start/end of day timings (see reminder email sent out last week), arriving as close as possible to your bubble times, moving swiftly through our one-way system in the small front yard and keeping at 2m distance from others.** Times of the school day are staggered to avoid cross-contacts between groups and contact between families.
- You **MUST avoid gathering around the small gate** and restricting access for pupils going to/from the school entrances.
- You **MUST** also take extra care when parking to **avoid restricting access/exit for others to/from the car park** (some parents have been parking where they are blocking the entrance) and again, avoid contact with others as you arrive and leave by remaining 2m apart. Please can you closely supervise your children at all times as the car park can still get very busy at pick up/drop off times and we don't want any accidents. Also, a polite reminder to stop your children from climbing on the car park wall/railings. This is not our property and we need to respect the church grounds.

Car parking safety reminders

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 above. 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.

Lessons, activities and events news

Please do keep checking on our **Facebook page** to see photos and news of lots of the wonderful learning activities which everyone has been getting up to in their bubbles so far this term. Many thanks to all who donated towards the Young Minds charity as part of our **'Hello Yellow' week**; we raised £52. Thanks also to all of you for giving towards this year's **Poppy Appeal** as part of our current Remembrance focus this week. Today, for **Armistice Day**, in place of our usual community service in church, each bubble has organised their own special Remembrance collective worship, including the 2 minute silence at 11am and an online service from Rev Angela and Rev Craig (which can also be viewed at home via our Spiritual Space on Google Classroom). All bubbles have been involved in some wonderful poppy-themed work, as well as our older pupils studying WW1 and 2 in History and Geography lessons as part of **this term's focus topic 'War and Peace'**. With the current increased restrictions on sports clubs and activities available for children outside of school, all classes are having even more of a **focus on keeping our pupils active and healthy** this term; the sporty focus for this year's **Children In Need** charity event links to this – remember that School Council have asked that all pupils should come **dressed in sports kit (with additional spots!) this Friday and donate via ParentPay**.

PTA (and early Christmas!) news

We are very grateful to the PTA for additional funding support this term which has enabled us to purchase **Perspex screens** (thank you also to Mr Nelson for assembling these for us!) which facilitate 1-1 and small group teaching, meaning that these vital activities can now take place across school in a more safe and secure way in line with the requirements of our risk assessments. The PTA have also kindly organised our annual **Christmas Card designing fundraiser** and have funded an **online pantomime** which everyone will be able to see as part of their Christmas activities later this term. They are certainly helping us to start looking forward to the festive season already! Thank you!

Keeping up with learning and homework via Google Classroom

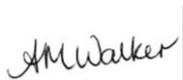
An important reminder that our online Google Classroom platform is the main way teachers are now setting **homework activities**. The platform is also to enable you to **continue to access learning from home** should your child need to be there because they are ill (but feel well enough to do some work) or isolating. Especially in Class 2 and 3, we have noticed that some pupils are still not using it. **If you have any issues with access to Google Classroom, the internet, or a device, or if you would like more advice on using the Classroom, please do let us know so that we can try to help** – contact Miss Brown, our Computing subject leader, via the office. **It is vital that you get to know the system now and also that we know whether you have any issues, as should your family have to isolate or if we have to close a bubble or school, we will then be providing teaching and learning via this system. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you have no access or usage issues and so we will expect your child/ren to be engaging with Google Classroom as and when requested by their class teachers.**

Final reminder – parents evenings

Please can everyone who has not already let us know, **reply as soon as possible and by Friday 20th November** to the parents' evening times choices given out last week, so that Angela can organise appointments for your preferred times. Please refer to last week's letter for more information.

Stay safe!

With best wishes from,



Andrea Walker
Head teacher

Diary Dates

Monday 9th November

Wednesday 11th November

Friday 13th November

Tuesday 17th November

Children in Need Appeal week

Remembrance services in each bubble

Wear sports kits for Children in Need Appeal

Governors' meeting - online, 6:30pm

**Monday 23rd & Monday 30th
November**

Friday 27th November

Monday 7th December

Friday 11th December

Monday 14th December

Thursday 17th December

Friday 18th December

No after school club for Class 1/2 bubble ONLY (due to Class 1/2 bubble staff Team Teach Training) - TBC

Christingle-making and special service in each bubble

Parents' Evenings all week

Christmas jumper day

Online Christmas Pantomimes during the week

Christmas services in each bubble during the week

Christmas Party day (TBC)

TERM ENDS AT 2PM (no extra-curricular clubs, no after school club)

School Year dates 2020-21

Autumn Term 2020

Thursday 3rd September – Friday 18th December

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