



Old Hutton C of E School

- A DfE National Support School

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Wednesday, 14 October 2020

October Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we have some important news and reminders to share with all families, here is a slightly earlier than usual newsletter (not quite half term holiday – but almost!). I would also like to celebrate how well our first half term of the new school year has gone, with pupils and staff coping wonderfully with all the new challenges and routines, keeping positive, happy and safe while also managing to do some excellent teaching and learning in the midst of a global pandemic... that's quite an achievement! So a HUGE well done to everyone and a special thank you to all of you at home too, for your fantastic support, patience and understanding at this difficult time for us all – we certainly need it now even more than ever to help us all work through this together. We can now look forward to what really must be THE most well-deserved half term holiday coming up very soon!

Staff news

We have the very sad news to share that at the end of this half term we will be losing **Mrs Caroline Birch** from our staff as she moves house from New Hutton to Scotland. Mrs Birch has been part of the Old Hutton team since March 2003 – an incredible 17 years! This has seen her work as a Teaching Assistant across every class and year group, as well as assisting with After School Club, being our Breakfast Club leader and providing wonderful support and friendship to pupils, staff and families; she has accompanied probably over a hundred school trips, including at least one residential (often two!) in Y5/6 and Y3/4 every year, helped to teach swimming, forest schools, lead ski club and support lessons and activities for so many pupils over her time with us. We will all miss her so much and the huge contribution she has made to our OHS family! If you would like to contribute to a special leaving gift for Caroline, please contact Angela in the office by Monday next week (19th Oct) who will advise you on how you can donate. We are in the process of recruiting for a new TA for the Class 4 bubble and will let you know when we have any updates.

Home-school communications news

From after half term, there will be a change to the way we make **routine communications** with our families. Messages about Covid-19 relating to suspected cases and negative outcomes of tests, plus routine messages about school activities **will only be sent by email**. This is because the email method is much cheaper for us. **Any emergency messages (e.g. if we have a positive Covid-19 case or if we need to close a bubble) will still be sent by our text messaging system**. Please can all parents and carers ensure that you **check your emails regularly** so that you do not miss any messages from school and also ensure that school has correct and up-to-date email addresses for you.

IMPORTANT routines reminders / updates – please note!

- It is essential for our systems to work safely that all families keep **PROMPTLY to your bubble start/end of day timings, arriving as close as possible to your bubble times and moving swiftly through our one-way system in the small front yard**. Times of the school day are staggered to avoid cross-contacts between groups and contact between families.
- Please do **avoid gathering around the small gate** and restricting access for pupils going to/from the school entrances.
- Please ensure that you queue to bring in or wait for your child/ren **at 2m distances, on a green dot or beside a cone**.
- If possible, it is best to **avoid bringing younger siblings** at drop-off and pick-up times. If this cannot be avoided, please ensure that they are **kept close by you, holding hands**, at ALL times – they must not be allowed to run around and play in the yard or outside areas while you wait.

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 and extra-curricular activities 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 check 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. Our whole-school Christian Value choice for this term is **Friendship** (voted for by all pupils across school as the most appropriate of our Values they felt we needed at this time) and pupils have certainly been demonstrating this in their work and play, as well as enjoying a Friendship focus in our daily Collective Worship. Some particularly special recent events to mention have been the Art Club's wonderful contribution to the **Kendal Torchlight Festival** display and film; our **Harvest celebrations** – including special services led by Rev Angela and Rev Craig and our friends at NISCU shared on our Spiritual Space, making sandwiches and pumpkin soup in the Class 1 and 2 bubble and gathering many generous donations of foods to send to Manna House in Kendal; and our **'Hello Yellow' week** which raised awareness of the Young Minds charity and the importance of wellbeing and looking after our mental health, including all the bright and cheerful yellow outfits filling school last Friday! A huge thank you to everyone who has donated towards our charity events.


Keeping up with learning via Google Classroom

We hope that you are getting used to working with our Google Classroom platform for **homework activities** and 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. Currently, we ask that you wait until lunchtime on any school day to access this, to give teachers time to upload activities while also managing their classroom teaching. If you visit your child's Google Classroom page, you will be able to see our curriculum planning for the term and year ahead, plus the class timetables, responsibility charter and other useful class information. Do also visit the Spiritual Space to access many inspiring resources, including some produced by our pupils. **If you have any issues with access to Google Classroom, the internet, or a device, please do let us know so that we can try to help** – contact Miss Brown, our Computing subject leader, via the office and also see the additional information letter which she sent out in September. **If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you have no access issues and so we will expect your child/ren to be engaging with Google Classroom as and when requested by their class teachers.**

Staying safe at home and out of school - reminders

We trust that all families and staff are maintaining the 1m+ distancing rules, rule of 6 and other Government guidance about meeting others outside of school in order to help support the health and safety of both themselves, their families and everyone else in school. Government advises that schools remind their families to take extra care at this time to limit the number of contacts made by themselves and their children out of school in terms of any other childcare or sports etc clubs or activities they may be accessing; any out of school arrangements should be consistent (e.g. the same each week) as far as possible and parents should check that robust health and safety measures are in place before using. We are also advised to ask you to **think carefully before making any travel or holiday arrangements for the half term** and if you do decide to go away from home, ensure that you check and follow all Government and local guidance, including considering the impact of any potential quarantine restrictions. **Stay safe!**

With best wishes from,



Andrea Walker
Head teacher