

26/6/2020

Dear parents & carers,

It's difficult to believe that I'm writing an End of Year letter to you all. It doesn't seem long ago that it was the start of this school year. Obviously, this has been a year like no other and it is frustrating to have not been in school to fully realise the hopes we had for this year. I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support throughout these challenging times. However, we do at least now know that we will all be together in school in September, ready to pick up where we left off. Of course, we are making plans to ensure that we deal with any consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Every decision we make is based on what we believe to be the best interests of the children in our school. In the next phase of COVID-19, we will continue to make decisions to enable your children to achieve all that they are capable of, whilst ensuring their wellbeing and happiness. With that in mind, we know how important it is, for children's mental health, to have the opportunity to have a definite end to this school year. This will also help them to understand that the school year is over and that it will soon be the start of the summer holidays. Whilst we will provide some **optional** Home Learning for the Summer holidays, it is important that the children have some down time over the summer weeks. The Autumn Term is always a tiring term, and after a lengthy absence from school, this will seem even more tiring. The children need to successfully transition to the next stage of their education, be that in our school or in their next school. We have begun to provide transition resources as part of our Home Learning Offer, and the Year 6 Home Learning Team have begun to lead some transition sessions with the older children in the school.

Having sought advice from the Local Education Authority, and considering the Government guidance for schools, we believe we are able to invite all children into school before the end of term, to say 'Goodbye' to this year and prepare to say 'Hello' to next year. Children will be invited to bring a picnic lunch to school and will remain outside, to eat lunch and talk to their teachers and friends. Children will remain in bubbles of 15 children. I know that you will have lots of questions about this but would ask you to wait for me to release more detailed information to you, before contacting us. School staff are not able to answer your questions currently and further information will be issued in the early part of next week. At the moment, we're asking you to simply save the date and keep an eye on your emails for further information. This activity will be entirely optional and if you would prefer that your child doesn't attend, there is no obligation to do so.

Date	Time	Year Group
Monday 6th July	11:30 - 12:30	New Reception children
Wednesday 8th July	11:30 - 1:00	New Year 1 children
Thursday 9th July	11:30 - 1:00	New Year 2 children
Friday 10th July	11:30 - 1:00	New Year 3 children

Monday 13th July	11:30 - 1:00	New Year 4 children
Tuesday 14th July	11:30 - 1:00	New Year 5 children
Friday 17th July	11:15 - 12:45	New Year 6 children
Friday 17th July	1:00 - 2:30	Existing Year 6 children

New Nursery children will be invited to 'Stay and Play' in September. Children already in school are expected to attend school as normal, but will take part in this picnic lunch.

End of Year Reports are being written for all children and these will be emailed to you before the end of term. There are some changes to reports this year; once again in line with Government guidance.

Staff Changes

As always at this time of year, we find that staff move on to new adventures. In July, Miss Katherine Warner and Miss Barbara Loughney will be leaving us, as their contracts with us end. I would like to thank them both for providing the children in their classes with stability and consistency after their original teachers left at Christmas. I'd especially like to thank them for their hard work, in school and within the Home Learning Team respectively, during the COVID pandemic. As you already know, Miss Hannah East left us, in May, at the end of her contract, having secured a promotion. We wish them all good luck for the future.

Our French teacher, Lynn Jordan is also leaving us in the summer, although she will still accompany Year 6 children on their annual trip to France. Lynn has her own company, teaching French in a range of settings, to classes and groups across the county, as well as providing 1:1 tuition. She intends to focus more of her time on this. We wish her every happiness in the future.

Miss Holly Edwards will also be leaving us in July as she moves on to another school. Holly joined us at the end of her first year of teaching and has worked in both Reception and Year 1 in our school. She provided the whole of Year 1 with consistency and care during the Autumn Term and I am extremely grateful to her for the role she played at that time. Holly also supported Miss Banks with her choir over the busy Christmas period. We all wish her good luck for the future.

Also leaving us in July is Mrs Caroline Colledge, who has secured a promotion within another school. Caroline joined The Grange as Miss Watts, a newly-qualified teacher. Since that time she has developed into an outstanding teacher and curriculum lead, and whenever I visit her classroom, I always want to stay! Caroline has brought much to The Grange, including playing a pivotal role in the summer show each year. Her passion for books and creativity will be much missed. Caroline deserves the promotion she has secured and although we will miss her, we are all pleased that she is taking this next step in her career. We all wish her every success and happiness in the future.

We have a number of new teachers joining us in September, as well as a couple who simply can't stay away!

Mrs Emma Darbey is returning to the school and will be working as part of the Early Years team. We are delighted that we have the opportunity for her to return to us.



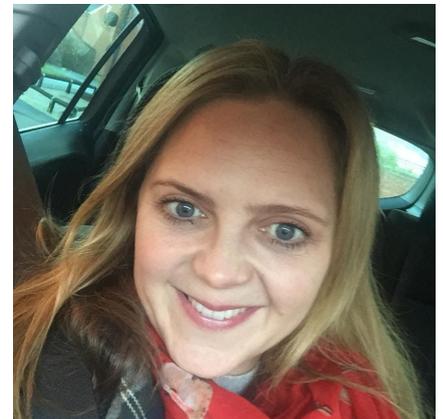
Mrs Emily Lile will be joining our Year 1 team and we are thrilled to have her joining our school.

We are pleased to welcome Miss Lauren Higgins-White, who will be joining our Year 3 team from September.



We are delighted to introduce Miss Emma Underwood, who will be joining our Year 5 team.

Some of you may recognise Ms Heidi Robertson, who left us a few years ago, having already worked in our school on two separate occasions. Heidi is thrilled and excited to be returning to teach in Key Stage 2.



Teaching Structure for 2020 / 2021

Early Years Team Nursery	Mrs Emma Darbey
Reception	Mrs Becky George (3 days)

	Mrs Louise Harris (3 days) - <i>Early Years Lead</i> Mrs Elizabeth Heath
Year 1	Mrs Emily Lile Mrs Laura Waldock - <i>Key Stage 1 Lead</i>
Year 2	Miss Della Frost Mrs Lauren Humphries (2.5 days) Mrs Kiara Oliver (2.5 days)
Year 3	Mrs Rowena Barrett Miss Laura Harrison Miss Lauren Higgins-White
Year 4	Miss Charlotte Berry Mrs Sarah Blackwell (3 days) Mrs Rebecca Duncton (currently on Maternity Leave) - <i>Core Curriculum Lead</i>
Year 5	Mrs Janet Hunt - <i>Key Stage 2 Lead</i> Miss Emma Underwood
Year 6	Miss Pauline Banks Mrs Claire Bull
Key Stage 2 Teacher	Ms Heidi Robertson
Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo)	Mrs Laura Phillips

Our fabulous team of support staff will be working across the school, ensuring that all children can access our curriculum and achieve their potential. They will include Mrs Fiona Craig, whose teaching contract ends, but who is staying with us, supporting children and classes across the school.

This evening, the DfE confirmed that there is no expectation that schools should open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over the summer holiday. They have also stated: "Teachers, support staff and school leaders deserve a break, to recharge and rest." They further added: "We can confirm that providers offering paid childcare will be able to operate over the summer holidays, in line with protective measures guidance. Additional funded activities may be available in local areas, such as the Holiday Activities and Food scheme."

At this time, we are still exploring to see if we can, in fact, open Acorns and ensure that the necessary protective measures are in place. I can confirm that Acorns will definitely not open at any point before the start of August, as I am closing the school site for two weeks, in order to ensure that the entire staff team takes some much-deserved time out.

I would like to thank you for your support throughout this time. I can't emphasise enough the positive impact of your messages of support during what has been a challenging time for all; including the staff. I often tell the team how much I appreciate them, but rarely do so in such a public way as this. However, their dedication, professionalism, care and sheer hard work over this period has made me even more proud to lead this team. I feel that, at this most unusual of times, their commitment deserves to be recognised publicly.

Thank you for reading this very long newsletter. We will get details of our picnic lunches out to you as soon as we possibly can, with details of how we will ensure that we comply with the Government's control measures. We will also complete our assessment of whether Acorns can safely open and will keep you informed of this too. Please look out for these emails in your inbox.

In the meantime, enjoy the weekend!

Vicki

Vicki Masters
Head Teacher