



Dear Parents and Carers

Trust and Collaboration How Are We Stronger Together?

Here we are almost at the end of Term 1 and standing on the threshold of Autumn.

This has been a very busy term as well as being a term like no other and seems to have flashed by. We know the children are tired and almost ready for a break, but we are holding them up until the end of term. It is great to see how well they have settled, and we love that they are finding their confidence again. There have been some really lovely learning experiences – especially outdoors in nature.

Attendance

We owe you all a huge thank you! Despite the chaos of trying to access the Test and Trace facilities in the first few weeks of term when many children suddenly developed colds, our parents have shown us that they want their children to connect with learning again and make up for lost time. Attendance is looking good at 95.2%. This is so important and is giving your children their best chance to regain learning momentum.



Some Organisational Tweaks

It is so true that any organisation needs to run systems for a while before they can really test how well they work and how sustainable they are. In line with government guidance and new hygiene recommendations, we had very strong plans for the return to school after our closure during the Covid lockdown. As we approach half term, we have considered every angle of school provision, and whilst we remain committed to robust health and safety measures, we have found that we have had to balance the tight segregation of class bubbles with the impact on resources, on learning time and on the social and emotional wellbeing of children who are feeling isolated from their friends. For that reason, we have made some refinements to routines, and have responded to some 'pinch points' in school where it was proving almost impossible to keep children separate. For a number of important reasons, we have had to merge some class bubbles for some parts of the day whilst maintaining all the high-level hygiene protocols which we know will mitigate the risk of transmission of the virus. The detailed rationale behind these decisions is in the letters you will receive over the next few days and should now be sustainable for the remainder of the current situation.

A Gentle Reminder About Social Distancing

As time goes on, it is so easy to forget about keeping to 2metres apart whenever possible. That said, it is vital that we do not drop our guard and slip into complacency. Please avoid forming groups in the playground when waiting at drop off and pick up. The more parents stick to timings and don't arrive too early, the better it is for us. It also helps to park away from the school gates at busy times. We appreciate your help with this and it could make the difference between having to close the school and keeping it open as we approach the tricky winter months.

Love Reading

By now, your child should have received their 'Love Reading' journal. We have thought so deeply about how to encourage children and support parents in using this, the most important of home-school relationships. We purposely did not set homework for the beginning of Term 1 as we wanted children to get into the rhythm of learning in school and just enjoy sharing their books. Now we have all our systems in place, we ask that you continue to really encourage your child to read at home daily and, most importantly, take time to curl up with a book together.



Our younger children will now be bringing home their RWI Storytelling book and their Book Bag books. These have been an immense investment on the part of the school, so please do return them to us so we can continue to provide all children with great opportunities to continue their Reading development at home.

Many of you will be missing our Book Snuggle event, I am sure, and although we cannot celebrate this important milestone in our year actually in the classrooms, we are going to be sharing some great ideas for a virtual sharing of our favourite books after half term. This will also coincide with a huge celebration of Reading in school as our children receive £500 worth of new books in each classroom. It is so fantastic to be able to inject the classrooms with new books. We just can't wait to share them with the children.

Parent Learning Conversations

This year, these are being run differently but will be just as important in sharing a dialogue around how your child is settling in school. Thank you to all parents who have booked their telephone slot on Arbor. For those who haven't yet had the chance, please do sign up. We intend to check in with every parent next week. There will be a post to celebrate an aspect of your child's learning on Tapestry or Seesaw with a recorded message from their class teacher prior to the meeting. Do listen to this with them before you have the phone conversation with their teacher so that you have reflected on learning with them.

Harvest Celebration

Just like every other aspect of school life this term, we have had to think creatively about Harvest this year. The children will not be able to perform live for you, but we are working on poetry performances in school and these will be posted on your child's Seesaw platform and on the website under the Class Pages in the last week of term. It is their first shared performance of the year and we hope you will celebrate it with them.



Meet and Greet Films

Don't forget that these informative videos are available under the Class Pages on our website and will give parents a good insight into the routines and priorities for each class. Have a look if you haven't yet seen them.

A Fond Farewell to Mrs Lyle

It feels like the end of an era when a member of staff who has worked for the school for 34 years comes and says it is time to leave. Mrs Lyle has been a part of our school for such a long time and has seen so many changes. She has seen children come and go and has watched them grow into adults and have children of their own. That is quite an incredible thought. Not only that – she has stood in the playground in all weathers, shared in their games, comforted them when they were upset, and sorted out a good number of playground altercations. Who can blame her for wanting to take life a little more easily and what better time to say goodbye, than before the winter months set in? On behalf of all of us, I would like to wish Annette and her family a wonderful and very well-deserved retirement and I am sure you will join me in sending her our sincere gratitude for all she has done for the children and our best wishes for the future.



Best Wishes

Sue Cox and the team

Key Dates

Tuesday 13 th & Wednesday 14 th October	Parents Telephone Consultations
Friday 23 rd October	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 2 nd November	First day of Term 2
Friday 13 th November	Whole School Flu Vaccinations
Friday 18 th December	Last day of Term 2
Tuesday 5 th January	First day of Term 3
Monday 22 nd February – Friday 19 th March	Swimming Lessons
Wednesday 10 th February	Last day of Term 3
Monday 22 nd February	First day of Term 4
Thursday 1 st April	Last day of Term 4
Monday 19 th April	First day of Term 5
Monday 3 rd May	May Bank Holiday – school closed
Monday 10 th May to Friday 14 th May	Y6 SATS
Friday 28 th May	Last day of Term 5
Monday 7 th June	First day of Term 6
Monday 7 th to Thursday 10 th June	Y6 London Residential
Friday 11 th June	Inset Day – school closed
Monday 28 th to Wednesday 30 th June	Y4/5 Porthpean Residential
Thursday 8 th July	SJS Y6 Transition Day
Thursday 22 nd July	Last day of Term 6