



Shortlanesend School

Newsletter



11th September 2020

Autum Term

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope you all continue to remain safe and well. It gives me great pleasure to say that our school has been wonderfully full this week. Full of chatter, laughter and learning. All our children arrived on Monday confident and eager to be back with their teachers and their friends. They are a very special group of children and the staff of Shortlanesend School have missed them all being here.

Thank You

Thank you for your understanding in following the changes we needed to make to our routines to be able to open fully. Please continue to help by sticking with your child's drop off and collection time – this allows for a safe arrival and departure, which is even more important following the government's announcements this week. Also remember it should be **one adult** per child to reduce footfall in the school.

Thank you also for all the learning your child achieved in the time they were away from school. It is clear that lots of time has been well spent with reading and other educational activities.

Thank you for the positive comments and feedback given about the return to school this week. Your knowledge of the situation and the dedication of our staff to create a welcoming and positive atmosphere despite the current situation is very much appreciated. All our staff have been fantastic in adapting to our new timetables, many volunteering extra time before, during and after the 'normal' school day hours.

Finally, thank you for the trust and confidence you have shown in returning your child to our school. We are constantly balancing the guidance being issued with common sense to continue to ensure that our children Smile – Learn – Excel at SLE.

School Update

As mentioned, we have enjoyed our first week of the new year. We remain positive about remaining fully operational throughout September and beyond, however, we must remain aware of the changeability of the situation. We must remain vigilant with the health of our children and adults. A localized case or small cluster outbreak at school could result in certain/all classes being temporarily closed. Please help us by ensuring that **we have your most up to date contact numbers** should we need to contact you urgently. We have plans in place to isolate a child (or adult) should they exhibit any symptom linked with the coronavirus, but obviously the quicker they are collected, tested and treated the better. Thank you for your continued understanding and patience.

All the children have settled back into their classes extremely naturally. Next week will see the children in Year 2 taught together for maths and science. This will also occur with children in Year 5. There are staggered playtimes in place which only allow for a consistent two classes to be on the playground at any time, whilst the staggered lunch timetable allows for cleaning between sittings in the hall, and has been accepted by the children without any fuss or upset.

Miss Oxenham Badge

Children today have been sent home with a special Miss O badge. These were designed in connection with the children last year and are a way in which we can remember Miss Oxenham and the inspiration and love she gave all the children at SLE. Last year's Year 6 children were presented with their badge before they moved on to secondary school. The badges can be worn to school or kept safely as a memento of a wonderful teacher and human being. Class One will receive their badges next week.

Snacks

Due to the changes required to safely operate playtimes and staggered lunches, the morning session is slightly longer for some of our children, and this is making them a little hungry. Please could you provide a healthy snack for your child, especially if they are in Year 3,4,5 or 6. Reception, Year 1 and 2 children currently receive a free piece of fruit a day under the government scheme.

Sports Hoodies

One of our parents, Mrs Whitfeld has very kindly offered to look to source PE hoodies for our children complete with the school logo. These would not replace the school sweatshirt, but would be ideal to be worn to school on current PE days, especially with Autumn and Winter approaching. There would be a cost for each hoodie, which is currently expected to be around £10, it may work out slightly cheaper or higher depending on the number ordered. Initially, we would like a show of support for the idea, so if you are interested please inform either Mrs Holroyd through email/phone, tell Mr Wilson at the gate in the mornings or Mrs Whitfeld directly. Thank you Mrs Whitfeld!

Reception

Congratulations to all our new reception children who have started school this week. It has been an absolute joy to welcome your confident and happy faces into class each day. Well done to parents for preparing your children to start in such an assured way, and for handling saying goodbye in these first few days so well. It can be an emotional experience. Mrs Lewis, Mrs Stanhope and Mrs Parker look forward to seeing you all together next week.

Reading Records

These will be collected in on Fridays and returned on Mondays in classes 2,3,4 and 5. Homework set will follow a similar pattern, so there will be a longer delay than normal between handing in, marking and returning.

School Day

A reminder that we are currently operating under the following times:

<u>Class:</u>	<u>Arrival Time</u>	<u>Where?</u>	<u>Departure Time</u>	<u>Where?</u>
5 – Mr Easter	8:30-8:40	Corridor – Door nearest classroom	3:00	Corridor – Door nearest classroom
4 – Miss Eddison	8:30-8:40	Classroom - Side door	3:00	Classroom - Side door
3 – Mrs Ashley/Mrs Lewis	8:45-8:55	Class Door	3:15	Class Door
2 – Miss Adler	8:45-8:55	Class Door	3:15	Class Door
1 – Mrs Lewis/Mrs Stanhope	9:00	Through outside area	Building up to 3:10	Through outside area

Dates

Autumn Term:

The last day of half term is scheduled for Friday 23rd October. We will return on Tuesday 3rd November and finish for Christmas on Thursday 17th December.

Spring Term:

We start the Spring term on Tuesday 5th January. We break up for half term on Thursday 11th February and return on Monday 22nd February. The term is scheduled to finish on Thursday 1st April.

Summer Term:

The Summer term is planned to start on Monday 19th April. There is a bank holiday on Monday 3rd May and we break for half term on Friday 28th May. We return to school on Tuesday 8th June. The final day of the term and the year will be Friday 23rd July.

Parent Pay

Unfortunately, there remains some issues with the Parent Pay service, Mrs Holroyd has been assured that the problems are being investigated and systems will be fully operational soon. Thank you for patience and understanding.

Have a restful weekend.

Thank you for your continued support.

