



stockbridge

Primary and Pre-school



Newsletter 1

11 September 2020

Delighted to be back!

Usually my first newsletter of the year features Year 5 pictures at Calshot but, as with so much of this year already, things haven't gone to plan and we're all adapting to a 'new normal'.

As much as I dislike that phrase, it has a ring of truth; most of what we're doing in school is business as normal but there is a lot that's different and new. I must begin by saying the biggest thankyou to you all as parents for the herculean efforts of the last few months but also for preparing your children well for school. Despite the understandable first day nerves, the children have come back positive, upbeat and pleased to be back and we are quite simply delighted! School just hasn't been the same since March and we're loving all their stories and anecdotes about lockdown and summer.

I hope that you have read my earlier email this week about testing for COVID. I do understand that this must be alarming but we have a really robust risk assessment, protocols and cleaning regime in place and the parents and children involved have been very conscious that whilst any coughs and sniffles are likely indicators of a cold, they want to be cautious and help everyone out. Massive thanks to them for their support in this.

Moving forwards, if your child develops a cold with associated cough and you are happy that it is a cold and not COVID related, please contact us, have a discussion about it – each case is unique and it's very unhelpful to the whole community if you then post about it and what you perceive to be conflicting advice on a parents Whatsapp group. YOU are their parents and know them uniquely well whilst WE will have the wider picture of their class.

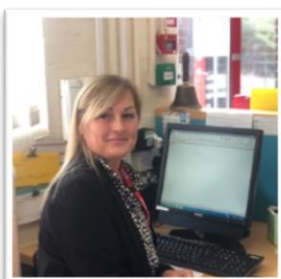
One thing that does feel very odd to me is not having everyone on the playground on a morning and afternoon and parents not being around on site. It was always a great compliment that so many came early and stayed late but it just isn't safe at the moment. That said, I've enjoyed chatting to you all on the gate at drop off and pick up.

If I haven't caught up with you yet, I look forward to doing so. In the meantime, welcome back to routine!!

New faces everywhere!

With Mrs Hutchinson and Mrs Hughes moving on to pastures new, Miss Hall also moving to a new pre-school setting and our temporary expansion to 7 classes, we have a lot of new faces around school. I thought it would be useful for you to put names to faces in our first newsletter. There is more detail about each member of staff on our website for all to see. We will hopefully appoint a new Pre-School manager on Tuesday next week and have a strong shortlist to choose from.

Admin Asst.
Mrs Revelle-
Scully



Year 1 teacher
(Redbridge)
Mrs West



Year 2
teacher
(Kimbridge)



Year 4 teacher
(Mottisfont)
Mrs Natt



Coming Up!

Every newsletter, we publish the key events coming up for children in our school for the forthcoming fortnight – this is the bit to pin to your fridge!

Mon 14 th Sept	07.45 08:30	Mrs Devereux starts supporting Breakfast Club; also on Tuesdays & Thursdays Mrs Devereux here to cover Teacher's PPA time in class every Monday & Tuesday Sprat & Winkle children start coming to school for half day sessions
Tues 15 th	13:45	Interviewing for a new pre-school manager
Wed 16 th	Am	Kev Rees starts guitar lessons again
Thurs 17 th	All day	Votes for School Council
Fri 18 th	09:00	First Celebration Assembly of the year – will be recorded and put on Google classroom
Mon 21 st	All day	Sprat & Winkle children all in in the mornings until 1pm. 1 st Full Governing Body meeting of the year (virtually)
Tues 22 nd	17:00	Deadline for expressions of interest in Parent Governor post
Wed 23 rd	17:00	Videos available on the class pages of the website and Google classroom of information for parents based on learning for this term in each year group.
Mon 28 th	08:30	Sprat & Winkle children in all day, every day.

Guitar lessons

Kev is back with guitar lessons next week (beginning Wed 16th Sept). Lessons are £5 per half hour for a small group lesson and he is offering guitar or ukulele tuition. If you'd like your child to take part (Year 2 upwards), please speak to the school office.

Reading book returns

If you still have reading books loitering around at home from pre-COVID closures, please, please can we have them back. We spent over £5000 on scheme books last year and still have about a third missing.

INSET dates

Our 3 remaining training days where children are not in school are:

Monday 2nd November
Monday 22nd February 2020
Thursday 1st April 2021

Breakfast Club

If you would like your child to go to breakfast club, you can no longer just 'turn up'. Please book using this link:

<http://bit.ly/bfastclubweek2>

Homework & School Council

We are recruiting our new school council members over the next week so Miss Tregunna has produced a video for the children, posted on their Google classroom and the School Council pages of our school website. There's homework this weekend on the back of this.

There is no other official homework other than reading this weekend. It will restart next week.

Available school places at our school & Year 6 secondary school choices

We do have some unexpected place availability in year 3, 4, 5 and 6 so if you know anyone who has moved to the area and/or is looking for a new school, please do let them know that we may be able to accommodate them. This is highly unusual for us and, with only 5 spaces, we are almost at capacity!

Year 6 parents, the window for secondary applications opens on 14th Sept and closes on 31 Oct. I will write to you separately with further details. Keep your eyes peeled!

Open Days for new Year R Sept 2021

No sooner are we welcoming our new Year R children in than we're thinking about next September. We usually throw open our doors at any time and show families around but with COVID hanging around, we are taking bookings now for a walk around with myself, Miss Tregunna or Miss Kirkham on either:

Saturday 10th October 9am – 12noon
Wednesday 11th November 6pm – 9pm

If you know of anyone with a little one due to start school in September 2021, please let them know.

THANKYOU for all your gifts and kind wishes at the end of term to us all, it was so thoughtful.



DIARY DATES

New dates are added each week in bold.
*means further details will be sent.

Date	Time	Event
SEPTEMBER		
Mon 14 th – 28 th – PLEASE SEE DATES ON PAGE 2		
OCTOBER		
Wed 2 nd	15:00	Parents evening booking forms out
Mon 5 th	09:00	Beginning of walk to school week
Sat 10 th	09:00	Until 12noon. Open morning
Mon 19 th	18:00	FGB meeting
Thurs 22 nd	10:00	Year 4 residential at Tile Barn TBC
w/b 19 th	TBC	Parents evening consultations – likely to be done virtually – we will confirm
OCTOBER ½ TERM		
NOVEMBER		
Mon 2 nd	All day	INSET – no children in
Mon 9 th	17:00	Parent information sessions for Autumn 2 online
DECEMBER		
		We have pencilled in Christmas events but, I think it's too early to confirm any of these so I will update this section as and when guidance changes nearer the time. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Traffic and Safety

Many residents on Old London Road are working from home still, meaning that spaces to park are few and far between. Please continue to use the layby & High St for parking.

As per my earlier email this week, please refrain from walking through the White Hart garden area where people are drinking and dining as it compromises their social distancing policy.

It's really important that HCC know of ANY incidents; they work on a data basis so that more that we log, the more they will know there's an issue.

Please do report ANYTHING that is unsafe to:
www.hants.gov.uk/transport

SEVERE ALLERGIES CHANGE OF POLICY ON SNACKS

We really need everyone's support on this one please.

We have several children in school with severe:

peanut allergy
milk protein allergy
chocolate allergy
tomato allergy

In some cases these children have anaphylactic shocks triggered by the smell of the above in the air or on people's breath.

For this reason, we ask that you do not provide your child with any nuts or nut based product for their snack or packed lunch, including peanut butter.

BREAK TIME SNACKS MAY ONLY BE FRUIT, RAISINS OR VEGGIES (not tomatoes) BOTH FROM SCHOOL OR WHEN BROUGHT IN FROM HOME.

Milk and products with milk proteins are carefully controlled on site. Sweets and cereal bars are not acceptable snacks, neither are crisps.

Where products state 'may include trace of nuts' – (this applies to almost everything!) we know that this cannot be avoided but do ask you to exercise caution.

Parent information sessions

What is my child learning & how are they catching up?

We had got into a good rhythm last year of sharing this vital information with you at the beginning of each half term and we don't want that to drop off but clearly can't have a hall packed with people.

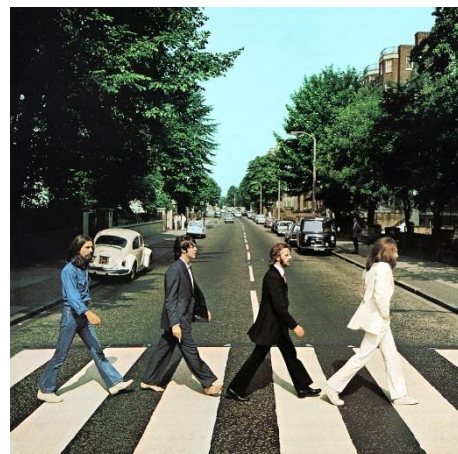
Teachers will be recording a briefing for you and we'll post it on your child's Google classroom and also on the class pages of our website on WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPT.

Music in school

Music can make you feel great, lift your mood and a mad dance around can make you feel 100 times better! It can also calm you down, chill the mood and is generally great for your soul.

Each week, we're introducing the children to a new singer, songwriter, band or genre of music and we're going to share it right here each week so that you can join in too!

We began with the Beatles and children have been enjoying 'Yellow submarine', 'Let it be', 'Come together' 'Twist and shout' and more!



Reading lower school

Some good reads for our younger children this week are:

Year R: *One fox* by Kate Read

Year 1: *The snake who came to stay* by Julia Donaldson

Year 2 - *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown

Year 3 - *David Attenborough* by Maria Isabel Sanchez



Reading upper school

We'd really recommend subscribing to one of these as a fun way to get your child interested in reading:

<https://www.whizzpopbang.com/>

<https://www.firstnews.co.uk/>

<https://theweekjunior.co.uk/>

<https://www.aquila.co.uk/>

Parent Governor vacancy

We have a brilliant Governing body whose role is to support and challenge and see the strategic vision for the school come to life. It is led by Catherine Williamson, supported in the Vice Chair role by Miriam White with 8 other governors supporting them. We have a vacancy for a parent to join the Governing body and support our existing group in ensuring the longevity of the school and providing a strategic insight into the life of the school.

Parent Governors are on the Governing body to represent the views of the parents and give a vital insight into a parent's perspective when we are discussing both the current picture of the school as well as the long term future. They are not on the Governing body to look out for 'their child' - in fact, it's important that a parent governor represents all views, even if not necessarily their own!

What would my role be?

Governors as a whole have been a key support during COVID closures and have continued to meet virtually to ensure school business is uninterrupted by the pandemic. Each governor brings their own skill set to the team; accountancy, community knowledge, understanding of legal or health and safety processes, specialist knowledge of Early Years, marketing, human resources...I could go on! We have completed a skills audit recently and would very much welcome applications for the post of Parent Governor from anyone with experience in financial management, marketing or Human Resources.

What's the commitment?

We meet once a month and continue to do so virtually at present, usually on a Monday evening from 6pm. We do not have separate committees but run a 'flat structure' so that all Governors understand and are involved in, all business areas.

You will also be expected to support the leadership team with monitoring and be linked to a subject area in school. This might mean a visit once every 6 weeks to school to undertake a monitoring activity although sometimes things like the budget or website compliance can be done remotely.

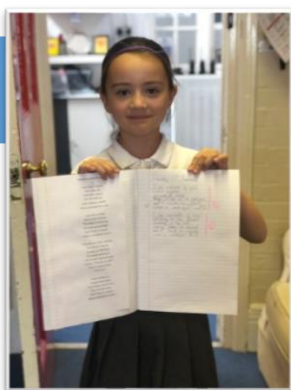
I'm interested, what should I do?

In the first instance, you could speak to Mrs Jefferies, Miriam White (who is also a Parent Governor) or Catherine Williamson who has been a parent here and is now the Chair. She is available by emailing the school office;

adminoffice@stockbridge.hants.sch.uk

We can all talk to you about the role and the application process. If we have more than 1 applicant, it will be put to a parent vote. A ballot system is entered into in these circumstances, If there is only 1 applicant and their skillset meets the needs of the Governing body, we will progress forwards from there.

We are keen to have more parent representation on the Governing Body as soon as possible so we would welcome any expressions of interest by Tuesday 22nd September please.



...and finally

It's not all doom and gloom in the world at the moment. Year 3 have been changing the lyrics to Louis Armstrong's song 'It's a wonderful world' and Poppy's version was so good, I had to share. It's very true - what a wonderful world we live in.

