

Unusual times

I set Year 6 the challenge of writing our school log book entry for this term when we had assembly this week because I honestly don't know where I'd start!! This may have been a week when there were fewer children in school but there has been a HUGE effort behind the scenes (and in front too!).

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mrs Smith, Mrs Sedgwick and Mr Langton who have been in school all week making sure children are learning and safe & Mrs Woods who has been on hand for admin duties. Not one had been in our school, knew the building, staff or children but without exception, they stepped in enthusiastically and with the commitment to make it work. I am forever in their debt.

Mrs McClue, Mrs Le Fevre, Mrs Lee and Mrs Hanham as well as Shawn, Kelly and the ace cleaning team of Mrs Gilligan and Miss Gillingham have kept school going and helped the temporary team find their feet and keep routines to as much of normal as can be expected. They have been superstars and I know their smiles won't have slipped, not even for a minute.

At home, despite being positive with COVID or negative but isolating, all staff have been furiously busy supporting and setting work on Google Classroom. In addition, Miss T stepped up to support the leadership remotely so that I could recuperate. Mrs Carter was unavoidably off (not COVID related) from Tuesday and Mrs Phillips has been brilliantly holding the fort in pre-school with Mrs Crosland, an Early Years Advisory Teacher from Hampshire's Early Years team who changed her diary for the entire week to support us and make sure pre-school remained open.

In the background, which no one will be aware of, is the sterling work of Mrs Williamson, our Chair of Governors who has fought for the best support and continuity for your children; both those at home and in school and had a keen eye on the wellbeing and health of all staff. I am so, so grateful for the time she has given up to help lead and manage school

It's good to be back!

Emma Jefferies, Headteacher

Staff returning

Over the next week, staff will finish their isolation periods. Most, including myself, have extended them to make sure they are as fit as fleas before they come back.

Please trust that we will not be back before we are ready even, if this means things are a little different to normal in the lead up to half term.

Miss Kirkham's class are due back into school on Thursday but, Miss Kirkham is due to be married just 4 days later and I don't want to do ANYTHING to jeopardise this! I have therefore asked her to stay home for the remainder of the term to keep herself and her fiancé safe from further COVID risk. They have changed their wedding date from April, gone from 150 guests to 15 and lost 3 honeymoons. I hope you understand.

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 19 th Oct	6pm	Full Governing Body mtg
Wed 21 st	11.59pm	Last time for isolation of most year groups
Thurs 22 nd	08:50	School is open for all
OCTOBER HALF TERM		
Mon 26th – Fri 30th October		
Mon 2 nd	All day	INSET day – no children
Tues 3 rd	08:50	Autumn term 2 starts
Fri 6 th	09:00	Flu jabs
Wed 11 th	11:00	School council represent school at War memorial



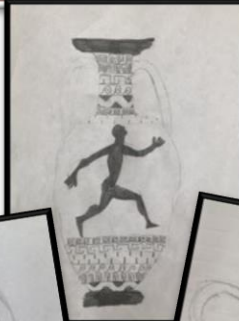
We can work anywhere!



Horsebridge home learning takes all forms!



Maz Evans, author of 'Who let the Gods out' even sent us a personal 'get well soon' message! How nice is that?!



Year 6 art work for their Greek pots. Next comes the clay!!



Residential

We are still waiting on the Government guidance changing to allow us to run any of our residential programme and catch up residential this year. Because of this, we have had to postpone Tile Barn for our current Year 5 children and are unable to confirm or cancel our proposed Calshot trip quite yet. I can't tell you how sad this makes me feel but I'm still hopeful!

Flu immunisation

Mrs Spayes has rearranged the flu immunisations for all children **who have got permission for this**. She sent a parentmail earlier this week with a copy of the permission letter attached. The school nursing team are experts in delivering this process and although it's not pleasant, it's very worthwhile in the current climate.

Photos

We have had individual photos done early this year in case of a lockdown (!) and they'll come back on Monday. Children in school will take them home then, those at home can collect on Thursday. All orders are done online and posted directly to you to minimise handling in the current conditions.

Open evening

We will still hold our open evening for prospective parents of next year's Year R on Wed 11th November from 6pm – 9pm. If you know of anyone interested in looking at our school for their little one, please let me know so that I can give you a postcard to pass on with further details. All visitors must book an appointment in advance so that we can manage this process safely.

Pre-School places

Our pre-school is going great guns and we are very excited to announce that after half term, we have the capacity for a few more children aged 3 and above.

We have at least 4 spaces every day so if you or someone you know has a little one who might like to start pre-school, please do get in touch.

Pre-School Manager

One of the reasons we can offer more places in pre-school is that after half term, we have a superb new manager coming to work with us in leading the setting. Mrs Evans is a very experienced Early Years Leader, coming to us from an outstanding nursery in Winchester and is super keen to get started. WE can't wait either!

Marathon plans

Never fear! We are still going to run our part of the London Marathon on TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER. We want to handle as little cash as possible and one parent has had particular success with a **justgiving** page so why not consider setting one up for your wider family to use this to donate sponsorship money for your children's sponsored run.