

## NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers

**Covid-19:** We constantly review our systems to do our best to ensure that our school is 'Covid secure' and our most recent changes to do with staffing have taken place for this purpose. As infection rates rose recently and we entered into our second lockdown, we revised teaching assistant timetables to further reduce staff movement across bubbles and reduce the risk of cross contamination. The majority of support staff, whenever possible, will now work with one class going forward and until such time as the threat of Covid-19 reduces significantly. Adjusted staffing is as follows:

**Nursery** - Mrs. Tyler, Mrs. Bekteshi, Mrs. Fonseca and Mrs. Harris

**Reception** - Mrs. Papuc and Mrs. Harris

**Y1** - Mrs. Mansfield, Mrs. Grucel and Mrs. Poll

**Y2** - Mrs. Coletta

**Y3** - Mrs. Whittam

**Y4** - Mrs. Amoss and Mr. Newman (P.E.)

**Y5** - Mr. Newman and Mrs. Becker

**Y6** – Mr. Brooker, Ms. Dobie and Mr. Gunn

We will continue to monitor the situation very carefully. Should infection rates rise rapidly again, we may be forced to make more adjustments to the timetable. I don't anticipate that this will be necessary for the remainder of 2020 but given plans to relax social contact rules over Christmas, the probability of this occurring in January or February does, in my opinion, increase.

Please help us to keep our school 'Covid secure.' Our efforts to do this are undermined by:

- Not wearing a mask on school premises unless medically exempt from doing so. In recent weeks there has been a noticeable decline in adults wearing masks when collecting at the end of the day
- Lowering a face mask to talk

- By adults not keeping children at your side when engaged in lengthy conversations with other mums or dads. When this happens your children sometimes merge with sibling bubbles!
- By not maintaining an adequate social distance between yourselves in the playground

Although we have not yet had a case of a pupil testing positive for Covid the likelihood of this does seem to be increasing as more and more schools in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey are shutting down classes because of this. Please help us to avoid this if we can. If a member of your household presents Covid symptoms (persistent cough, temperature or loss of taste or smell) it would be prudent to keep your children off school until you receive test results. Tests are returned quickly now compared to several weeks ago with a turnaround of 48-72 hours. Thank you for helping us to keep our school open.



### KS2 Railway Safety Presentation

**Parent Teacher Consultations:** We look forward to the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with you next week. We will attempt to keep to a very tight schedule given that each of you will be setting aside time to receive our phone calls and delays will cause enormous inconvenience should they occur. Teachers will let you know when a couple of minutes of the call remain so please don't be offended when consultations are brought to a close in-order that the next call can take place.

If further discussion is thought necessary, teachers will make an alternative arrangement to talk to you. Please be available at the allotted time; if we cannot contact you on time this will result in a shortened consultation. Thank you for your patience regarding this but this system will be new to all of us.

**PTFA News:** The fantastic members of your PTFA committee continue to work incredibly hard despite Covid and the challenges this presents. The half-term Alphabet Treasure Hunt was a big hit and raised £342 and the committee has lots of lovely ideas for Christmas as advertised in recent PTFA flyers. These include our Christmas Gift Stall, Santa's Grotto, our school cookbook and the Christmas Raffle. Every pound we raise will be reinvested in the children, so please support these plans especially as our major fund raising events of 2020, the summer and advent fairs, have not taken place due to Covid restrictions (a fund raising shortfall of £8,000 - £10,000).

Our next fund raising opportunity is non-uniform day this Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Our last non-uniform day raised just over £400, enough to purchase 3 new Lenovo Chromebooks. Our purchase target before Christmas is 10! Please contribute at the gate to enable us to achieve our target. Thank you so much!



### Workshops and social distancing

These **difficult times affect so many of us in such different ways**. If your financial circumstances have been adversely affected by Covid-19 and you now have entitlement to

benefits, please notify the school as you may be able to access additional support such as free school meals and financial support for residential school journeys. All such information is confidential.



### Y5 Henry VIII Hatfield House workshop

**Staff News:** Mrs. Spiteri and Mrs. Pacey have announced their retirement at the end of this term. They have worked at the school for longer than almost anyone else and their commitment and service has been extraordinary and we shall miss them both in so many ways. There will be further opportunities to thank them for their service to our school in the next few weeks. If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift from parents, please pass your contributions to myself, Ms. Dobie or Mr. Jeffery at the school gates.

**The wider curriculum** (previously referred to as the creative curriculum). Although we are unable to take the children out and about in our school buses at the moment, we are one of a handful of schools still running workshops for the children to enjoy. Stringent measures and risk assessments are in-place to mitigate Covid-19 risks and ensure that the children continue to enjoy and benefit from these exciting learning opportunities. Workshops are exciting and bring learning to life. Many are run by actors; others by experts in their field. All help us to transform the learning experience for children and make learning meaningful and fun.

November workshops alone have included: Y3 Stone Age, Y2 Florence Nightingale, Young Shakespeare for Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6, Y1 Great Fire of London, Y3 science workshops, Y2 Space, Y3 Earthquakes, Y5 & Y6 Railway Safety Talk. Y5 Henry VIII workshop. Our unique offer of workshops and trips spans the entire school year, offering exceptional learning opportunities for the children. These experiences are at the heart of learning and we are thrilled that with you help we are able to offer so much. Thank you.



**Adults & Pupils alike wore odd socks for a week to symbolise our united stand against bullying!**

**Black History Month and Anti-Bullying Weeks:** Although our attention to these important topics spans the whole school year and our focus is not restricted to either a week or a month, we have been celebrating Black History and talking lots about bullying during our assemblies throughout the last month. The children have engaged with these topics with great interest and energy and we all remain united in our desire to ensure that our school is 'one big happy family!'

Graham Gunn

Head Teacher



**Y5 Science 'Dissolving' workshop**



**Y3 Rock workshop..."I never knew learning about rocks could be such fun!"**



