



'Engage - Inspire - Empower'

Head Teacher Newsletter

January 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

My newsletter is a little later than usual but as you know we haven't had our usual start to the spring term that we all would have hoped for and with the introduction of the national lockdown and the extended period of school closure we now have the majority of our children at home.

Last week we moved once again to online learning through our website and class pages however this time we have introduced a lot more live lessons for the children to participate in. I know this has created some debate amongst parents about what is the right amount of live lessons for the age group and their children and as with anything there are differing opinions. What I would say though is that we are now one week in, we have listened and changed some things and we will be tweaking things more this week with a move to google lessons for all classes some point soon. More information on google classrooms can be found later on in this newsletter.

However with the changes to guidance, information and expectation on school staff, often with an additional pressure that practices change within a very short timeframe, I cannot tell you enough how proud I am of all of our Jenny Hammond staff team and how hard they are working to keep our school open and our children safe, happy and educated. This includes a thank you to staff who have willingly stepped into different roles to keep the school functioning and to everyone, in all their different roles that make up our amazing school team, just doing their very best to keep the ethos of Jenny Hammond going in this difficult time where we keep the child at the centre of everything we do.

A huge thank you goes to each and every one of you.

Welcoming New Staff

In the middle of everything we are fortunate to have been able to appoint new members of staff to our team. Some of you will already know Keyla Barbosa who was working in our office last term. Keyla now joins us as a permanent member of staff and is our new Receptionist and Admin Assistant. We also have a new Learning Mentor, Janet Bruce, who works 5 days a week, 10am to 2pm. Janet has already spoken to some of the parents of the children that she will be supporting and is looking forward to when she can meet more of you in person.

Our final new member of staff is Shanika Clarke, a Special Needs Assistant who has already settled in really well. Shanika joins our Holly class team.

Welcome to you all.

Online Learning Hub

To support our children and parents with remote learning, we have created an Online Learning Hub on our website. Here you will find a collection of resources to support you in working from home, as well as quick links to the class pages and Google Classroom. There is also a video showing you how to use Google Classroom for the first time.

The Online Learning Hub can be found on the homepage of our website and at the top of all of the class pages.

We are currently in the process of moving all of our online lessons onto Google Classroom. If your child's class is not yet using Google Classroom, you will soon receive log in details and instructions on how to get started.



We are aware that some class pages on the website have been crashing over the last couple of days however we have been removing a lot of the content from the previous week's learning which should address this problem. As we move to Google classrooms this won't be an issue as the children's learning will all be through a Google link on the class page and no other work will be posted.

Please make sure if you haven't already done so that you collect an exercise book for your child to work in if they are in Key Stage 2 and your learning pack consisting of an exercise book, whiteboard, marker and board rubber of your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

Bug Club

You should now all have received login details for your child to access Bug Club online. If you haven't please contact your child's class teacher through their class email and they should be able to give it to you. (If your child is in Reception then your Bug Club logins are in your child's learning pack that you have either collected or is at school waiting to be collected.

Bug Club is an online program designed to support the effective and engaging teaching of reading for primary children in Reception to Year 6 using high quality online reading books. Bug Club readers include popular children's characters from titles such as *Wallace and Gromit*, *Angelina Ballerina*, *Shaun the Sheep*, *Doctor Who* and *Star Wars* to keep your children engaged.

There are over 360 expertly chosen fiction and non-fiction books, phonic fiction books, comics and graphic novels available in digital formats to support our children, wherever they are, through lockdown and beyond. The books feature inside front and back cover notes to advance learning and support parents. The digital books are assigned to the children by their teacher and feature automatically marked quizzes linked to all taught comprehension skills which assess children's understanding of the content. Your child's teacher will be able to see the books your children have read and how well they are doing in Bug Club.

E-Safety: How to Keep Children Safe in the Online World.

A workshop for parents at our school run by The Race Equality Foundation

Monday 25th January 2021 at 12 noon on zoom

We are delighted to have been offered a zoom workshop run by Eleni from The Race Equality Foundation. Eleni has run these workshops with our parents before in school and they have been very well received with parents finding the information shared extremely useful.

Subjects covered are:

- The benefits and risks of the online world
- Specific scenarios such as online grooming, bullying and sexting
- Helping you to help your children recognising risks and stay safe.

To register for the workshop please contact Eleni by email on

Eleni.sfsc@racefound.org.uk

Or by phone on

07708360561

POWER Projects

POWER projects for this term's topics can be found on your child's class pages. They are optional to do at the moment however the projects do cover the whole of the term rather than a half term so your child will get an opportunity to bring in any of the work they do complete to share with the rest of their class when the school returns to being fully open to all children.

The Cancellation of Statutory Assessments

All statutory school assessments for this year have now been cancelled. This includes Year 6 Standard Assessment Tests, (SATS), and Year 4 multiplication tests set to have been introduced this year. Also cancelled are Year 2 SATs that in the past have been used to support the teacher assessment given at the end of Year 2, Year 1 phonics assessment usually taken in June and Reception class end of year assessments. The school will still be making teacher assessments over the year so that we can ensure your child is making good progress and offer support if they are struggling.

Primary School Applications September 2021

If you have a child that turns 4 years old this academic year, (1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021), then you only have until the end of this week to apply for Reception class starting in September 2021.

The application form can be found on the Council website and the closing date to submit the form is the **15th January 2021** so please do not be late with your application.

Children in School

We have a lot of children in school at the moment which is great and this is the picture across the country. However we are very conscious that at the same time as welcoming children into school we also have to look after the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and children and therefore we are keeping Year group sizes to no more than 15 children and some of our Year groups are already at capacity. The guidance on critical worker children being able to come into school where there is one adult in the household that meets the criteria is being looked at again by the DFE and already there has been a change in the wording to say that critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

I do appreciate that this is impossible where both parents are critical workers or for single parents where you are a critical worker but for other families where possible please do consider whether you need the school place and or whether you need access to the full 5 days. None of this is an ideal situation at all and there is nothing more I would like to do then offer everyone a place that wants one, however this just isn't possible. I do appreciate all the sacrifices you have to make within your own working patterns to support your children in their online learning at home and I really hope that we will be welcoming everyone back into school soon.

And Finally

I cannot tell you when things will get back to any sense of normality, I wish I could. What I can tell you is that every teacher, every learning support assistant; indeed, every member of Jenny Hammond staff is committed to your child's wellbeing and success.

As always thank you so much for all the support you give to Jenny Hammond and for the emails you have sent thanking staff which I always pass on. They do boost morale at the school so they are very much appreciated.

*Best wishes
Deborah*

Website:

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Twitter:

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Download the Jenny Hammond App from your app store

The Remainder of the Academic Year

Staff INSET Day, school closed to children – Monday 4th January 2021

Children Start – Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 9.05am

Half Term - Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2021

Children Break Up – Thursday 1st April at 2.30pm

Easter Holidays –Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April 2021

Summer Term 2021

Children Start – Monday 19th April 2021 at 9.05am

May Day Bank Holiday – Monday 3rd May 2021

GLA Elections, school is used as a polling station and closed to children – Thursday 6th May 2021

Half Term - Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021

Children Break Up – Thursday 22nd July 2021 at 2.30 pm

Children in Year 1 to Year 6 return to school on Monday 6th September 2021

Children joining us in Reception return on Monday 13th September 2021