



Head Teacher Newsletter April 2021

Welcome Back

I can't believe that it is now just over a year since we have had our world turned upside down with covid however with the lifting of some restrictions I hope you all had a good break and had some time to meet up outside with family and friends.

The children, as always have been brilliant at returning to school and focusing on their work and new topics and we are hoping that we will soon be back to some degree of normality in school. Certainly the positive cases in Waltham Forest have been significantly low and we have not had any known cases in school since December. We do have to wait though for any changes to school organisation to be announced from the Department for Education and until that time we will be keeping our staggered playtimes, lunchtimes and end times and the children will remain in class bubbles although we have been able to regroup our tables so that the teachers can do more focused group work with the children. We are also keeping our assemblies on google classrooms and after school clubs will not be going ahead this half term.

We do plan to take the children out on local trips this term though and take advantage of our amazing surroundings and as soon as we do hear of any significant changes we will of course let you know.

New staff and staff returning

We have 2 new members of support staff that have started this term. Gemma is supporting the children in Anita's class, Holly and Anika is supporting the children in Stephen's class, Rowan. Both are very welcome additions to our Jenny Hammond team and they have already thrown themselves fully into the job.

We also welcome back Michelle and Wendy who you won't have seen in school for a little while, it's lovely to have them back and the children are obviously really pleased to see them.

Polling Station

You will know from previous newsletters that the Mayoral elections are happening on **Thursday 6th May** and that school is closed to children on that day as we are used as a polling station for the local community to cast their votes in. As each class is now set up for Google Classrooms because of the online teaching and learning that took place during the spring term the teachers will be providing online lessons for their class in the morning on that day. More information will be given in the class newsletters emailed out later on this week.

School is open as usual for all children on Friday 7th May.

If you are registered to vote at our school on the 6th May you should use the entrance to the school through the gate on Worsley Road only, there will be no access to vote from Elsham Road. Voting will take place in the school hall.

POWER Projects

Each class from Year 1 to Year 6 will have a POWER project to complete this half term. We haven't been able to complete our POWER projects related to our topics for over a year now although some of you have been sharing your projects online.

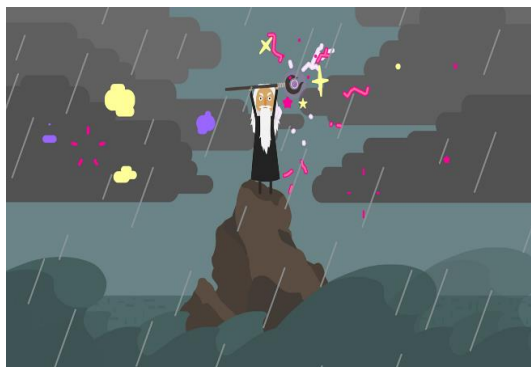
This time however the teachers will be sharing the POWER project overview sheet with their class and will be sharing ideas around the work the children could be doing at home and how they might do that. The POWER Project overview sheet will be shared on Google Classrooms by the beginning of next week alongside the ideas that the children have discussed in class. The handing in date can be found on the sheet which is Thursday 20th May and the children will be able to bring their work into school on that day and present their projects to the class in a presentation lasting no more than 10 minutes.

If you need a paper copy of the POWER project sheet then please email your class email and the teacher will be able to give your child a copy.

There is an expectation that all children complete **at least** one of the suggestions on the POWER project sheet with older children completing more and it should not be work stored on USB sticks as we cannot use them on our computers to share with the class.

It is also expected that children continue with daily reading and KS2 complete their Reading and Writing journals.

Shaking Up Shakespeare



Anthony Glen from Shaking Up Shakespeare will be working with Year 1 classes on the play The Tempest. Each class will have 3 days of working on the play and will perform it in the hall in front of the other Year 1 class and filmed so that it can then be shared with the Year 1 parents. A link to the performance will be given to parents after the children have performed their play.

Holly class will be working with Anthony from **Tuesday 27th April to Thursday 29th April** and will perform their play in the afternoon of the 29th April.

We have changed the dates for Sequoia class to work with Anthony because of the school being used as a polling station so they will now work with Anthony on **Tuesday 18th May to Thursday 20th May** performing their play in the afternoon on Thursday which again will be filmed and shared with parents.

Parents' evening and children's reports

There are no parent consultations this term as the teachers are using the time after school to write the children's reports. However if you need to speak to the teacher about something of importance then please phone the school office or email your teacher directly through the school email.

We are really keen to have face to face meetings with parents this year for Parents' evening so we are changing the way that we run these meetings. Instead of all the Year groups having meetings with parents on the same 2 evenings we are actually going to be allocate particular days in July for each Year group to have their meetings which will take place across a whole day from 8am to 6pm. We are currently looking at online booking systems for Parents' Evening so that you will be able to book a time slot through the class pages on our website however more information on the dates and how to book will go out nearer the time.

Summer Term Newsletter

School Menu

We have moved to a Spring/Summer lunch menu which still rotates over 2 weeks at the moment. As always there is always a vegetarian option every day, Monday is meat free Monday and when we do serve meat it is halal. The menu can currently be found on Waltham Forest Council website and we will add it to our website as well.

End of Year Trips

Every year we arrange a big trip for all of the children to celebrate the end of the school year and in recognition of the hard work they have put in over the year.

Reception would normally go to Paradise Park in Broxbourne by coach where they always have a lot of fun with their friends from class. Year 1's trip is usually to the Princess Diana Memorial Park in Hyde Park and Year 2's trip is to Hobbledown in Surrey again travelling by coach.

Year 3, 4 and 5 would usually go to one of the Theme Parks which is always a fantastic day out for the children.

We are still keen for these trips to happen as the children really do deserve a fun day out with their class in recognition of their hard work over the past year and the amazing resilience they have shown. However we are still very much in the middle of our roadmap out of lockdown and as we are not yet sure how Year group bubbles can cross over we plan to organise these trips for September if possible when hopefully we have a much clearer picture of things going back to normal.

For Year 6 we have already booked a day out at Gilwell Park for Tuesday 20th July with a full day of activities for the children to take part in outside such as archery and we are currently waiting for this to be confirmed that it is going ahead. The good news for Year 6 as well is that this year we will be putting on their end of school play and having a small graduation may be possible which sadly Year 6 had to miss out on last year.

Class Photos

After cancelling our class photos twice now over this academic year we have had confirmation with the photographer that they will be coming on **Friday 30th April** to take the photos of each of the classes which will either take place in the hall or outside weather permitting. Class photos will take place in the morning and children should be in school uniform on that day and bring in their PE kit separately if they have PE on a Friday

And Finally

As many of our families have welcomed the month of Ramadan we wish you all courage and strength during this time. Ramadan Mubarak.

Best wishes
Deborah



Summer Term Newsletter

Dates For Your Diary

Shaking Up Shakespeare Workshop

Holly Class Performance

Thursday 29th April

Whole Class Photos

Friday 30th April

May Day Bank Holiday– School Closed

Monday 3rd May

School Closed for Polling

Lessons through Google Classrooms in the morning

Thursday 6th May

Year 4 Waltham Forest Pedestrian Training

Tuesday 11th May

Shaking Up Shakespeare Workshop

Sequoia Class Performance

Thursday 20th May

POWer Project hand in

Thursday 20th May

Year 6 PGL

Friday 21st May – Monday 24th May

Children Break Up

Friday 28th May at 3.30pm

Half Term

Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

Children Return to School

Monday 7th June

Art Week

Monday 14th June – Friday 18th June

Year 6 End of School Play

Wednesday 14th July at 5.30pm

Year 6 Graduation

Monday 19th July at 6pm

Children break up for the summer

Thursday 22nd July at **2.00pm**

Please see the academic calendar for 2021 – 2022 on the next page!

School Calendar for 2021/22

Autumn Term 2021

Staff INSET Days, school closed to children – Wednesday 1st, Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September

Year 1 to Year 6 Children Start – Monday 6th September 2021 at 9.05am
Reception Children Start – Monday 13th September 2021 at 9.05am (Half days for the first week)

Half Term - Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October

Children Break Up – Friday 17th December 2021 at 2.30 pm

Christmas Holidays - Monday 20th December 2021 to Monday 3rd January 2022

Spring Term 2022

Staff INSET Day, school closed to children –Tuesday 4th January 2022

Children Start – Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 9.05am

Half Term - Monday 14th to Friday 18th February 2022

Children Break Up – Friday 1st April at 2.30pm

Easter Holidays – Monday 4th April to Monday 19th April 2022

Summer Term 2022

Children Start – Tuesday 19th April 2022 at 9.05am

May Day Bank Holiday – Monday 2nd May 2022

Half Term - Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

Children Break Up – Friday 22nd July 2022 at 2.00 pm

There is one more INSET still to be included, date to be confirmed.