



'Engage - Inspire - Empower'

Head Teacher Newsletter

September 2021

Welcome back to the new academic year, I hope you all had a good summer break. It is great to see our children back in school; they came in so well this morning, big smiles, ready for the year ahead and settled straight back into the school routines.

As you know from my message last week and the letter from the Local Authority we're not quite back to normal yet but we hope to get there very soon. Once Waltham Forest Public Health are assured that schools returning has not had an impact on covid cases leading to serious illness we should be given further guidance on returning to normal practice. In the meantime we have extended our 'bubbles' inside to Year groups instead of classes and outside children are allowed to play within their Key Stage and playtimes have gone back to normal times as have lunchtimes. Key stages will still have dedicated playground space at lunchtimes however the children won't have to wait in the dining room for their class to finish eating before they go out which is a big relief to the children and to me that's for sure!

We have had a couple of staff changes in school. We welcomed teachers Jo and Aaliyah before the summer break and last week we welcomed Shehnaz who has come from teaching in Walthamstow. Some of you will already know Lewis who has now officially joined us as a Special Needs Assistant and Bernie, who the children adore and is already a Mid-Day Assistant at our school is supporting children in class every morning as well.

Classroom Photos and a Reminder of Classroom Names!

The staff have worked really hard in creating exceptional learning environments in each of the classrooms and around the school and it's such a shame that you don't get to see them. To share these spaces with you we are going to take photos of each of the classrooms and some of the shared spaces and put them in a photo gallery on our website for you all to see. The gallery will be online by Friday 17th September as we want to include our Reception children and their classrooms as well.

The classes this year are:



Reception Louise – Conker
 Reception Gilly – Acorn
 Year 1 Sakina – Sequoia
 Year 1 Anita – Holly
 Year 2 Ashleigh – Rowan
 Year 2 Shehnaz – Willow
 Year 3 Bilkis – Juniper
 Year 3 Aaliyah – Aspen
 Year 4 Fenella – Lilac
 Year 4 Jo – Maple
 Year 5 Alyson – Sycamore
 Year 5 Hannah – Cedar
 Year 6 Peter – Chestnut
 Year 6 Andrew & Gemma – Oak

Class Emails

Each class has a class email that each teacher has access to. This enables you to contact the class teacher directly as you won't always be able to have a conversation with them at the school gate at the end of the day. The teachers check the class email daily however they won't be able to respond to you straight away if a response is needed due to the constraints of their teaching day.

Class emails follow the same format but each start with the name of your class tree. For example to contact Andrew and Gemma in Year 6 Oak the email is Oak@jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk. To contact other classes you just change the name of the tree at the beginning of the email.

To contact the office by email the email is office@jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk.

Start & End Times

School starts for all children at 8.55am with a 10 minute window for the children to come in and walk straight to class. The gates will be closed at 9.05am and will be locked whilst the children are on site. The registers will be taken straight away in class and children coming in after the register will be marked as late. Please make sure that you are on time for the start of the day otherwise your child will miss the introduction to their first lesson.

At the end of the day Reception and Key Stage 1 finish school at 3.15pm and Key Stage 2 at 3.20pm. Reception can be collected from their classrooms and we ask that only one parent per child waits in the Reception outside area for their child. If a Reception child has a sibling in Year 1 or 2 they will be dismissed from the Reception classroom as well. Year 1 are dismissed from Elsham Road gate and Year 2 from Worsley Road gate.

At 3.20pm Year 3 and Year 6 will be dismissed from Elsham Road gate and Years 4 and 5 from Worsley Road gate. Children in Year 6 can walk home on their own once you have informed us and in some cases Year 5 children.

If you have siblings being dismissed from different gates at the same time then the oldest child will go to the gate of their younger sibling.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will start on **Tuesday 28th September**. If you would like to book a consultation with your child's class teacher to discuss their progress then please email the class email and the teacher will book you in. You will be given a choice of whether you would like the meeting in person or on zoom. Zoom worked well for a lot of parents last year as they could have the consultation from their work place and 2 parents could join from different places so we have decided to keep this option available. Consultations last 15 minutes and teachers can hold 3 consultations a week for parents.

Universal Free School Meals

Children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** are entitled to free school meals regardless of income. This is known as Universal Free School Meals and means that if you have a child in any of these 3 Year groups then you do not have to pay. If your child is in Key Stage 2 and you are in receipt of income support/universal credit then you are still entitled to Free School Meals and should apply on the council website at www.walthamforest.gov.uk.

If you are in receipt of income support/universal credit in Reception or Key Stage 1 can I ask that you still apply through the council website for free school meals as this gives you an entitlement for other things such as some reduction on the cost of trips and clubs.

Schools meals are **£2.30 a day, £11.50 a week**. Dinner money can only be paid on Parentpay. If you do not have a Parentpay account then please see Jacquie Reid, Business Manager, who will give you an activation letter. The school does not profit from school meals.

Please note that once your child is in Year 3 School dinners are no longer free and will cost you £11.50 a week unless you are eligible for free school meals which needs to be applied for.

Please **do not** hand in dinner money to the class teacher or the school office.

Children bringing in packed lunches are reminded that fizzy drinks, sweets, chocolates or nut products, (including chocolate spread and peanut butter), are **not** allowed in their lunch box.

Fruit & Water

Free fruit is available to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Children in Key Stage 2 can bring in a piece of fruit for their morning play. Other snacks are not allowed. Children can drink water throughout the day and we have had more water fountains fitted outside over the summer break however we are not able to use these at the moment due to covid restrictions so all children should bring in their own water bottle which we can refill if necessary. The children are only allowed to drink water throughout the school day although they are allowed juice in their packed lunch. **Children should bring in their water bottle every day and can you please make sure it has your child's name on it.**

School Streets - Parking, Dropping Off and Collecting Your Child

Worsley Road, Elsham Road and a small part of Cary Road are 'School Streets' and are closed off to vehicles between **8.30am and 9.30am and then 3pm to 4pm**. This means that unless you live in these roads you cannot drive down them at those times even if you have the relevant parking permit. Cameras are installed to monitor the roads and you will receive a fine if you drive down the roads during those times.

Absent and ill children

If your child is absent from school for any reason can you please phone the school office before the start of the school day. If we have not heard from you after 9.30 am we will phone you at home.

If your child has been sick at home or school and is sent home we are asking that they stay at home for 24 hours before returning to school so that they are completely well. If they are suffering from any Covid symptoms; new persistent dry cough, temperature and loss of taste or smell then please carry out a PCR test and wait for the results before bringing them into school.

Please note that if there is a positive case of covid in school other children do not need to isolate and can still come into school.

As always we cannot authorise any absences unrelated to illness during term time except in exceptional circumstances where you will need to complete an absence form which will need to be authorised. If you miss school due to a change in flight details you will be asked to produce your original flight details and confirmation of the change so we can authorise absences that are out of your control.

Updating your Child's Details and Medical Records

Can you please ensure that if any of your details have changed the office is informed as soon as possible so that we can update your child's records. Please see Jacquie, Marie or Keyla if your details have changed including any childcare changes. This includes any changes to medical conditions or allergies.

If your child has medication that we keep in school can you please ensure that it is in date. If your child is in Year 5 and 6 and has an asthma pump they will look after their pump themselves in preparation for when they move on to secondary school. Asthma pumps for children in other year groups will be kept in the medical room as usual.

Reading Books

In each class there is a selection of books that children are encouraged to take home and read, these are called Core books and have been especially selected for the age group of the class. These books will be given to your child and will should be changed regularly. Please make sure your child has their book bag in school and if you still have school reading books at home then please return them to your class teacher.

Bug Club, which we started last year, is still available online to your children and a new selection of books will be available for your child to read. If you are unsure on how to access Bug Club please email your class teacher.

It is important that children are reading daily at home.

Our School Website – www.jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk

On our school website you will find a lot of information on our curriculum and also the School Handbook 2021 which has more detail about the school including a list of all the staff and Governors. You will also find policies, timetables, term time calendars and each class has a class page which you can click into by clicking on their tree name to see individual information about your class. The website is updated regularly so please check it regularly.

Class Newsletters

The class newsletters will be published on our website by the 7th September outlining all the information regarding the teaching and learning in that particular class. The newsletter also includes information on PE times and some information on the curriculum. Dates for this academic can be found at the end of this newsletter. Individual class timetables can also be found on the class pages on our website.

POWER projects will also start this half term and all will be explained to Year 1 as they haven't done one before but I am excited to see the return of POWER projects from all of our children. Dates for handing the projects in are on the POWER project sheet.

All newsletters and POWER projects can be found on our website so please check it regularly.

The Jenny Hammond App

Our school app is available for Android and Apple devices.



With the app you can:

- Get in touch with us
- View our calendar
- Read our newsletter
- Watch JHTV
- View your child's Power Project



Please note that when we send messages through the app if you click on the link the message disappears so you need to swipe down on the message.

Parentmail

When you join the school and your email is uploaded to our school database you are signed up to Parentmail which we use to send you messages and information about the school including letters and this newsletter. Once your email is uploaded you will receive an email from Parentmail for you to create your own password protected account so please look out for the email.

Whilst we often hold more than one email for a child Parentmail is usually sent to the parent we have on our system as the first point of contact. If you are struggling to receive Parentmail or your child is new to Jenny Hammond and you have not had an activation letter please email the school office to let us know. Our new Reception parents will receive an activation letter in your first week at school.



Jenny Hammond on Twitter

Another way we communicate with parents is through Twitter so if you are on Twitter you can follow us at [@jennyhammondE11](https://twitter.com/jennyhammondE11)

School Uniform

School uniform can be ordered on line from Speedstitch at www.speedstitch.co.uk. You are also able to get our uniform from the Speedstitch factory outlet in Walthamstow, details from the school office. Please note that children should not be wearing jewellery or make up at school. Stud earrings or small hooped earrings are allowed if your child already has their ears pierced. Our uniform colours are white shirt or polo top, red jumper or cardigan and navy blue skirt or trousers.

PE Kits

Please ensure that your child's clothes are appropriate for the activities they are doing in PE. The children should have either blue or black shorts and a plain white T-shirt, all of these items can be bought from any major supermarket. PE kits should normally be kept in our drawstring PE bag which can be purchased from the school office however **we are asking the children to come to school already dressed for PE on the day they have it.** Therefore children can wear navy blue tracksuit bottoms and navy blue sweatshirt if they would like to as PE will be outside for the first half term. Class newsletters will give you more information on the days your child has PE.

A Jenny Hammond tracksuit is now available from Speedstitch if you would like one with our logo on it. Children in Key Stage 2 can bring in roll on deodorant as they are in their PE kit all day. This will be kept in their drawer and taken home every half term.

May I stress how important it is that all uniform including PE kit is clearly labelled with your child's name so that lost items can be returned to the correct owner.

Book Bags & PE Bags

If your child needs a new book bag they can be bought from the school office for £6.50. PE Bags are £4.75. The school does not make any profit from the sale of these bags.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club has already started and runs from **8.00am** each morning and children are supervised until they are taken to class. Breakfast on offer at the moment includes different cereals, yogurts, fruit and a drink. This is included in the cost of the childcare which is **£3.00** a day. Unfortunately we cannot supervise any children before 8am and ask that you do not bring your children to school before then.

Music Lessons

Music lessons, including the piano, violin and guitar, are run directly by the company PianoFunClub. You will be able to book and pay directly to them and the lessons will take place at our school during the school day. These lessons are recommencing this week and will be carried out in the studio to enable the music teachers to keep socially distanced from the children if appropriate. If you would like your child to have music lessons then you can find out more at www.pianofunclub.co.uk.

Code of Conduct

At Jenny Hammond we have high expectations of behaviour from our children and the school community. When your child joins the school you, your child and the school sign up to our home school agreement where we expect all our staff to act professionally and staff, children and parents to treat each other and talk to each other with respect. We ask that if you have any concerns you bring them to the attention of the class teacher or Leadership Team for the school to act upon and that you do not approach other children to discuss it.

Please also read the **Parent's Code of Conduct** on our website.

Individual School Photos

The school photographer will be in school on Thursday 23rd September to take individual photos of your children and also sibling groups of any siblings we have in our school.

We may not be able to do all of our fundraising events this term however we can do **Jeans for Genes Day** which is all about raising money to help some of the most vulnerable children in the UK who have life threatening genetic disorders.



On **Friday 24th September** we are asking that all the children and staff wear non uniform with their jeans and **bring in £1.00**. All money raised will go to the charity.

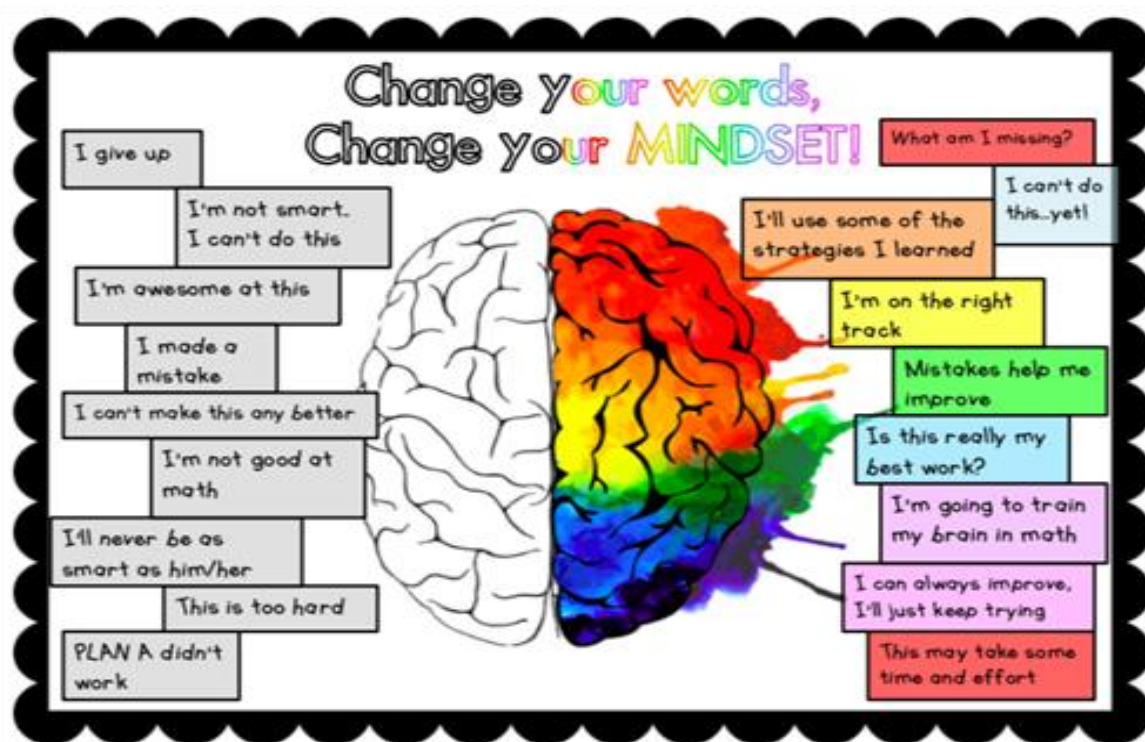
And finally

A Growth Mindset

You will hear the staff talking to the children about having a growth mindset where the children have a love for learning, emotional resilience and high expectations of themselves. When they can't do something, they can't do something 'yet.' They make 'fantastic' mistakes, have 'brilliant' brains and they support each other as Learning Partners.

Having a growth mindset enables your child to flourish both socially and academically and we believe it has a positive impact on the children at Jenny Hammond.

A parent guide can be found on our website which tells you a bit more about it.



Best wishes
Deborah
Head Teacher

Academic Term Dates For Your Diary

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 18th 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 Day to be included, date to be confirmed.

Individual School Photos

Thursday 23rd September

Jeans for Genes Day – Friday 24th September

Bring in £1.00 to support the charity

For more information on everything that happens at

The Jenny Hammond Primary School

visit:

www.jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk