



**'Engage - Inspire - Empower'**

## **Head Teacher Newsletter**

**January 2022**

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Welcome back, I hope you all had a lovely break and were able to do some if not all of the things you had planned.

It is great to see the children back in school this week and every class has settled straight back in and are keen to get going. It is hard to believe that this time last year we had moved to online learning and live lessons through Google classrooms but hopefully we won't be needing that quite so much now if at all.

I would like to officially welcome 3 new members of staff to our mid-day assistants' team, Nafisa, Farida and Dilraj. All 3 joined us before the Christmas break and have got to know the children well in the playground and in the dining hall. They are already very much part of our school team. Welcome to you all.

#### **Safeguarding Email**

[Safeguarding@jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:Safeguarding@jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk)

We have set up a new email for parents and anyone in the community to email if they have a safeguarding concern about one of our children or their family. It is important that this email should only ever be used to report a safeguarding or child protection concern and if school is open always phone the school office first and ask to speak with Diana Williams our Designated Safeguarding Lead or Andrew Warren, our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. When phoning always let the office know it is a safeguarding concern.

The email will be checked every day of the year so you will be able to contact us in all of the school holidays. If you are unsure about whether it is a safeguarding matter then it always best to email or phone so that we can look into it and take the correct course of action if necessary. The email has restricted access so the information in the email will only be shared with the appropriate professionals.

#### **DFE Covid Guidance for Schools**

As we move into the new year we still have some restrictions to follow because of covid. For example we are restricting the amount of visitors to only professionals in the school, we are avoiding mixing Year groups and before Christmas we had already moved the classroom furniture around in Key Stage 2 so that the children were sitting back in rows.

We are currently updating our risk assessment to reflect the DFE guidelines announced on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 and this will be published on our website. The guidance continues to state that children should still come into school every day even if there is a positive case of covid within the household however we would ask that your child takes a lateral flow test over 7 days each day before they come to school and if they do have any symptoms of covid they do not attend school until they have a confirmed negative test.

Other changes to the guidance relate to the shortening of the isolation period. Children with a positive case of covid can now end their isolation earlier. This means on Day 6 of having covid they should take a lateral flow test and if it is negative take another one on Day 7, 24 hours later. If both tests are negative then your child can come back to school. If the test is still showing a positive result then your child should continue to isolate for the 10 days. The same applies to adults who are double vaccinated. Adults who have not been vaccinated are still expected to isolate for the 10 days however this doesn't apply to Primary aged children.

At the moment if you or your child have a positive lateral flow test then you have to take a PCR however this is changing at some point next week to only needing to take a lateral flow if you don't have any symptoms but have had a positive result. If you have had a positive result and you are unwell then you will still be expected to take a PCR. All positive tests should be reported as usual following the instructions on the test kits.

Anyone considered a close contact no longer needs to isolate but instead should take a daily lateral flow test for 7 days after you have been in contact. The same applies to Primary aged children. If they are identified as a close contact, they can still come to school taking a daily test for the 7 days.

### **Attendance**

Children should be attending school every day unless they are unwell. You should report your child absent every day that they are unwell before the start of the school day. You can do this by phoning the school office on 020 85193977 and pressing 2 or by clicking on the school jotter link on our website that sends a message directly to the school email.

Attendance measures have now returned to normal in that your child is expected to have 96% attendance or more. If attendance falls below 90% then this is classified as persistent absence and could trigger a meeting with the Educational welfare Officer and in some cases lead to a fine given by Waltham Forest.

If there is an exceptional circumstance where you need to take your child out of school then you will need to complete an Exceptional Circumstance form detailing the reason for the request for absence. Unfortunately not all absences will be authorised and each request is considered within a few days of being received. Holidays will not be authorised. Forms can be asked for at the school office.

### **Online Learning**

After last year children from Year 1 upwards are used to being taught through Google classrooms which can be accessed through their class pages on our website. Reception have also had a small introduction to it by accessing their Christmas concert through Google classrooms.

We are hoping that there won't be a need to return to online learning from home however we will still use Google classrooms to provide work for your child if they are isolating from covid and they feel well enough to do the work. When you inform us that your child has covid your class teacher will contact you to check in and to find out how your child is. If they are well and have a positive result of covid but no symptoms then the teacher will provide work for them to do at home and will remind you of how to access the work.

If you need a school laptop to do the work then please let your teacher know and we will arrange for one to be loaned to you.

POWer projects can also be found on the class pages so your child can be working on an aspect of their project and of course be reading every day.

## Bug Club

We have continued to give every child access to Bug Club online. Bug Club is an online reading program, if you haven't got a login or have forgotten it then please email your class teacher who will remind you of the login details.

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. 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 and will keep updating the books.

## Parent Consultations

Having only recently moved back to face to face meetings with parents for the consultations we are unfortunately having to move back to online meetings. Parent consultations to discuss your child's progress take place after school on a Tuesday and usually last for up to 15 minutes. If you would like to have an appointment with your class teacher then please send them a request through the class email and they will contact you with a date, time and a link for the meeting.

## Statutory Assessments

All statutory school assessments for this year are going ahead although individual school results will not be published by the Department For Education (DFE). Assessments include Year 6 Standard Assessment Tests, (SATS), held in the week beginning the 9<sup>th</sup> May, Year 4 multiplication check in June, Year 2 SATs in May that support the teacher assessment given at the end of Year 2 in your child's report. Year 1 phonics assessment taken in June and Reception class end of year assessments. The school will still be making teacher assessments over the year in all Year groups so that we can ensure your child is making good progress and offer additional support if needed.

## Primary School Applications September 2021

If you have a child that turns 4 years old this academic year, (1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022), then you only have until the end of next week to apply for the Reception class starting in September 2022.

The application form can be found on the Council website and the closing date to submit the form is the **15<sup>th</sup> January 2022** so please do not be late with your application.

## And Finally

As always thank you so much for all the support you give to Jenny Hammond School. You have continued throughout the pandemic to support the school community and adjust to change as needed, sometimes with very little notice. Our Reception children joined us in September having not had any transition and it's hard to believe that the families new to our school in Reception still have not had a proper tour of our incredible school environment or stepped upstairs yet in the Victorian building. I haven't forgotten my promise to you that as soon as I can you will be invited in to have a proper look around. I hope that 2022 brings you all good health and happiness and some normality back to school life.

Happy New Year!

*Best wishes  
Deborah*

Website:

[www.jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk](http://www.jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk)

Twitter:

@jennyhammondE11

**Download the Jenny Hammond App from your app store.** Please note that if you get an App message from us you need to swipe down on the message rather than click on it otherwise it just disappears!

The Remainder of the Academic Year

**Spring Term 2022**

Staff INSET Day, school closed to children –Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Children Start – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 9.05am**

Half Term - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Children Break Up – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 2.30pm**

Easter Holidays – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Summer Term 2022**

**Children Start – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 9.05am**

May Day Bank Holiday – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

**Year 6 SATS**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May

Half Term - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

**Children Break Up – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 2.00 pm**

Staff INSET Day, school closed to children – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

**Please note that the school academic calendar dates for 2022/23 are being taken to Governors on the 26<sup>th</sup> January to be ratified and will be sent to all parents via parentmail at the end of January.**