



## HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2021

### CLASS CHANGE AND TRANSITION

We are reaching the time of year where the children are preparing to move on to their new classes or, in the case of Year 6, their new schools.

The process of Year 6 transition is under way, with a series of visits and contacts with local schools planned. In the case of this year group, we are doing all we can to ensure that the children avoid needing to self-isolate.

For other year groups, I have worked closely with senior and year leaders to decide whether the children in the year groups should be mixed up or whether they remain as a whole.

In the case of Foundation Stage and Year 1 (going into Year 1 and Year 2), we will be keeping the children in their classes, as a whole. We feel that given the unsettled nature of their first year or two in school, this is necessary for them to feel as settled as possible.

The current Year 2 up to the current Year 5, will be mixed up and the new classes will be given in July ahead of two transition sessions, where children will meet their new teachers.

Classes will be decided based on key criteria. Academic need, the balance of academic progress in the class, previous information around the children, name, house team, who gets on with who (and who doesn't get on so well!) and lots of other considerations are all worked through to form new classes.

### LAST DAY

The Year 6 Leavers will be departing, following their leavers assembly, at 11.30am on the last day of term, Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup>. If Year 6 parents want to collect siblings of their Year 6 children at this time, this will be arranged in the weeks ahead. Although all other children have traditionally been collected at 2pm on the last day, we are, for this year, going to keep to the current timings at the end of the day and the children can be collected at the same times they have been being collected, since March. We feel this will reduce unnecessary confusion.

### CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Following the government announcement around June 21<sup>st</sup> becoming July 19<sup>th</sup>, in terms of the final stages of removing social restrictions;

We are working in an area, where many secondary schools and increasing numbers of primary schools and early years providers, have had to close year groups and classes in recent weeks as a result of outbreaks. Our priorities remain the same. To do all we can to keep the children in school, as they have been since the start of March. To give the Year 6s a positive end to their time at school, doing what we can within the guidance which still allows events (inside and outside school) to take place and to set things up safely so our new and incoming Foundation Stage children can get to know their new school. Beyond this, we will try and do all we can for all year groups, to provide enjoyable opportunities, even if these will need to be presented virtually to the people who would most want to be there.

In terms of the start and end of the day. This will not change before the end of the academic year. The children know the system. People know the times. It works well and there is a lot to take from this in the future in terms of how well organised things are when the children are in school. If the great unlock does happen for the last four days of term, then everything will remain the same with the exception of any requirement for social distancing.

I have been asked to clarify our position on masks. Our staff wear masks in school, when they may be in a position where they come into contact with other adults or other bubbles, because they choose to and because it is recommended in guidance. Any marginal gains for keeping children in school is a good thing. We ask parents to wear masks on the school grounds, because things can become bunched up and it's not always easy to distance. If parents can't socially distance outside school and they choose to wear a mask, then this is entirely down to individuals.

### **NEXT YEAR**

We will be using the emergence from the current situation to kick start a more interactive curriculum in September and as part of this I have asked Year Leaders to explore the options and possibilities for school trips in the Autumn term.

In addition we have been encouraging our pupils to look into how they **Dream, Believe and Achieve**. Our vision for the new School Improvement Plan centres on this and our desire to get our children to dream of doing amazing things in their life and work, to be given the resilience and personal skills to believe they can do it and then to achieve as much in life as they can. The children have come up with some fantastic ideas and I'm certain will put these into practice moving forward in life. It's been good to get feedback on this work and I will be putting together displays and feeding back on their ideas.

### **ASSEMBLIES AND BRONZE BADGES**



Congratulations to all the children who have been awarded bronze badges in recent assemblies. Reading the reasons for nominations has been great and almost all centre on a willingness to keep trying and improving, an enthusiasm to help others and showing that bumps in the road happen, but they can be overcome.

The bronze badge winners are supporting our approach to be **ready** to learn, **respectful** to others and **safe** in school.

### **SPORTS DAY**

Last year we had the only virtual sports day that we know of! This year we are going one step closer to the real thing.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July, we are planning to hold the annual school sports day. This means your child will need to attend school in their PE kit for the whole day (dark shorts, house colour or plain white t-shirt and their school jumper or cardigan). They will hopefully also need plenty of water, sun cream and a sun hat - fingers crossed. The day will be broken into slots so we reduce the spread of the virus - potted sports in classes and a year group relay. Rest assured there will be lots of sanitizing throughout the day.

Unfortunately, like so many schools, we have made the difficult decision to have staff and children only at this event. We appreciate that parents usually love to attend but with the restrictions not yet fully lifted by the government, we are unable to follow the guidance and have the parents of over 600 children in the same place at the same time. We will take plenty of photographs of the day to place them on the year group pages of the website and Mr Moir will announce the winning house team in his assembly.

Miss Edgley

## FOUNDATION STAGE

We have had such a great week in Foundation Stage and have been learning all about "Pets".

We had some surprise visitors too. Bert and Ernie, the guinea pigs came to visit us and so did Nero, the Cocker Spaniel. We had lots of fun learning about how to look after them. We have also enjoyed spending time in our "Vets" role play area and making homes for our imaginary pets.



## YEAR 1

This term year 1 have been thinking about Dreaming Big and what we would like to be when we are older. We have been also looking at what sorts of characteristics we need to achieve these goals. The year group are also going on a journey with Max to 'Where The Wild Things Are'. Through this we will be looking at different types of animals and what they eat as well as seeing who can make the boat that will hold the most without sinking. The children will also be having their own 'Wild Rumpus' so a packed term in the company of Max and his Wild Things.



## YEAR 2

Year 2 have been busy learning about Africa.

So far we have learnt about lots of animals that live in Africa, and their habitats, diet and appearance. We have also been learning about other continents and the oceans that make up our amazing planet. In art we have been making some Kente cloth patterns and we will be learning how to weave!



In maths we have been learning about different types of measures and developing our understanding of how to solve problems using the four different operations.

In the next few weeks we will learn some African traditions and the journey of the cocoa bean and... hopefully eat some chocolate too!

## YEAR 3



Year 3 are enjoying learning about sustainability and we are looking forward to finding out about the impact of plastic in the ocean. We have asked the children to bring in one plastic bag so we can recycle it into some beautiful weaving art work to tie in with the work of Isotou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia, the women who focus in our class text.

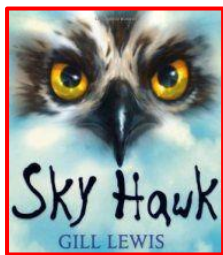
The children will be writing persuasive letters to convince the reader to use less plastic.

## YEAR 4

Year 4 are learning about the human body this term. We have participated in Zoom calls with a training physiotherapist who answered all of our questions about bones and muscles. It was wonderful to see the children engaged and interested in this fascinating profession. As our journey inside the human body continues, experiments approach that will both equally intrigue and ... disgust!



## **YEAR 5**



Year 5 pupils have become scientists this term! So far, they've dissected plants and are in the process of conducting an experiment to find out whether seeds need light in order to germinate. In addition, they have engaged well with our text 'Sky Hawk' by Gill Lewis, and have been working hard to research ospreys in order to write a non-chronological report.

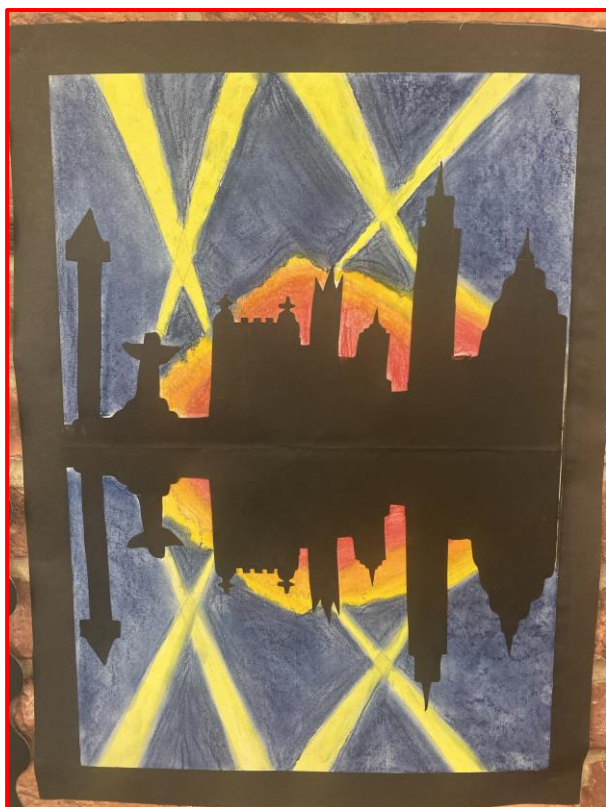
## **YEAR 6**

So far this term, Year 6 have continued to dive deep into what life was like across the world during World War 2. The children are now fully engrossed in their book 'Letters from the Lighthouse' and are eager to find out what has happened to Sukie. Year 6 have also been learning about light, shadows and electricity due to our story centring around a lighthouse.

We are interested to begin learning about The Holocaust this week to continue developing our gratitude for the era we currently live in.



**Mr A Moir**  
**Headteacher**



**A PIECE OF ART WORK**

**FROM**

**MOLLY IN**

**OSPREY CLASS**

### **DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

24 <sup>th</sup> June	School Photographs
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Foundation Stage – Height, Weight, Vision & Hearing
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Foundation Stage – Height, Weight, Vision & Hearing
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Foundation Stage – Height, Weight, Vision & Hearing
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Foundation Stage – Height, Weight, Vision & Hearing
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Secondary School Inductions – Year 6
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Last Day of Term