



# NEWSLETTER

Term: Summer 20 | Issue 9 | Date: 10th July 20

## HEADTEACHER'S LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have just 1 week to go until the summer holiday and normally, we would all be looking forward to the school break with excitement. However, I know many of you will be worried about further weeks without school. Please do try to make time for some rest if you can over the summer.

As you may be aware, in line with government guidance, for the past few weeks we have been able to welcome back to school some children in Reception, Y1 and Y6. We have continued to offer places to vulnerable children and the children of key workers. By bringing back these smaller groups of children, the school has been able to test out our new health and safety systems which will ultimately guide us for when we are allowed to welcome all children back to school.

This week schools received guidance for full opening to all children in September. The Government has set the expectation that all children will return to school in the Autumn term. The government has relaxed the rules on social distancing within classrooms and schools have been asked to plan for larger bubbles of children. There is some flexibility in the size of bubbles we can create, but it is likely that we will create bubbles of 30 children as the guidance suggests (usual class size).

The guidance is long and will require some careful thought to ensure that the plans we put in place keep everyone as safe as possible. For this reason, although all children will be back in school, there will be some changes to our normal school routines. Planning for a safe return in September is going to take some time and I am not in a position to let you know exactly what to expect at this stage, however some of the changes **are likely to include:**

- Staggering the start and finish times of the school day; we may also need to reduce the length of the lunch break to ensure that there is no shortening of the school day
- Staff and parents still required to socially distance, so limited access for parents and visitors to the school site
- No large gatherings of pupils in the hall so for this reason we will probably start the term with packed lunches to be eaten in the class bubbles (provided by the school catering company if required or brought from home in the usual way)

- Limited mixing of class bubbles - children will remain with their class for their lessons and break times

The above list is just a small sample of the things that we will need to consider. More information will be provided for you on school re opening in the last week of the school summer holidays. You will receive a text linking you to any communication, and any letters sent out will also be posted on the school website under 'letters home'. Term starts again on Monday 7th September and it will be very important that the information set out in my communications prior to the start of term, on bringing and collecting your child from school, is followed carefully. If you have changed your contact telephone number during the closure period, please let the school office know as soon as possible so that you continue to receive communication from us.

I want to reassure you that we are not only preparing for the safe return of your children, but the staff team is also preparing for a recovery curriculum. This recovery curriculum will support your child's health and well being as well as support their academic needs. I know that your children have not had the opportunity to meet with their new teacher or take part in any transition activities. Our plans for the Autumn term return to school will also take this into account.

You will see later in this newsletter that we are sharing details of new classes for September. Staff are preparing their welcome letters for all classes and these will also be posted on the secure area of our website.

Schools across the Borough will be closed in the holidays. The staff will need time to recharge and time to care for their own children. I am pleased to inform you that the Local Authority has agreed to provide a wide-range of activities for children during the school holiday. As soon as this list of activities is published, I will share it on the school website.

For those of you in receipt of free school meals, I want to thank you for your patience during this period of closure. The system for issuing free school meals vouchers (due to benefits) has not been easy but I believe that whether you have been receiving paper vouchers from school or receiving emailed vouchers, things are now running more smoothly. If you have not received vouchers that you believe you are entitled to, it is very important that you contact school as soon as possible so that this can be looked into before the summer break. It has been agreed that funding for free school meals vouchers will continue over the summer holiday period. This holiday will be for 7 weeks and each child will be entitled to £105. If you are receiving your vouchers by email, you will not need to do anything more, your vouchers will come automatically on the 17th July (£45), on the 10th Aug (£45) and on the 11th Aug (£15). If you collect your vouchers from school, you will need to telephone the school to arrange a collection time for your vouchers. Please note that these vouchers must be collected by the last day of term.

School reports are beginning to be delivered by the class teachers. End of year reports are statutory but we have adapted and shortened them to make them reflect the different period of time we have had compared to normal.

I understand that the past few months have not been easy. Many of you have juggled teaching, parenting and working, as well as coming to terms with this new 'normal' way of life and worrying about what the future holds. I want you to know that we are really looking forward to welcoming all of your children back to school. Bedford Road has not been the same without them and we have all missed them so much. Your child's safety and well being is at the heart of every decision that is made. I will be in touch with you all again at the end of the summer break and look forward to seeing you all again soon.

If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs L J Gould



## STAFFING

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Howson a very fond farewell as she retires at the end of July. Mrs Howson has worked at the school for nearly 20 years and as a wonderful TA, has supported many, many children during her time here. We also say goodbye to Miss Dickson, who has been covering Mrs. Oliver's maternity leave in Cherry class.

I know both of these ladies will be greatly missed.

Thank you Miss Dickson and Mrs Howson, from us all .

## FAREWELL TO OUR YEAR 6 PUPILS

As we come to the end of this academic year, I am sure you will all join me in wishing our year 6 cohort all the very best for their future and the next stage of their education. As they move up to secondary school, we reflect on the unusual way that their Primary School years have come to an end. Although the children have missed the opportunity for their end of term events, we are immensely proud of them all and it has been a pleasure to know them.

# SEPTEMBER

**Here are the new classes for September. All the children are staying with their current class group and will move up to their new teacher together.**

Cherry class will move to Willow class (Mrs Storey)

Maple class will move to Ash class (Mrs Minhas)

Ash class will move to Cedar class (Mrs Chand)

Willow class will move to Hazel class (Mrs O'Dell)

Cedar class will move to Palm class (Mrs Tolley)

Hazel class will move to Chestnut class (Mrs Llewellyn)

Palm class will move to Oak class (Mrs Crocker)

Chestnut class will move to Beech class (Mr Soanes)

Oak class will move to Rowan class (Miss Parker)

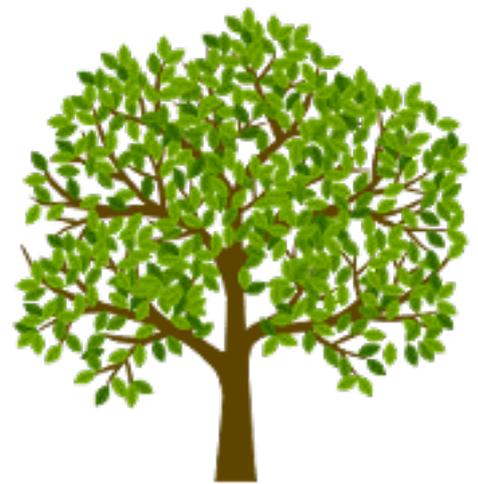
Beech class will move to Sycamore class (Mrs Russon)

Rowan class will move to Elder class (Mrs L Oliver)

Sycamore class will move to Juniper class (Mrs Hubbard-Jones)

Miss Cormack will be teaching in Maple class and Mrs Oliver will be returning from maternity leave to teach Cherry class.

It is hoped that in September, we will be able to build in some time for your children to spend some time with their previous teacher and have a chance to say farewell.



## GOOGLE CLASSROOM



The school received funding from the DFE during lockdown to enable us to provide Google Classroom for every child in the school. You should

Google Classroom

have received a login via Remind or the school texting service to enable you to login. Please contact [googleclassroom@bedfordroad.school](mailto:googleclassroom@bedfordroad.school) if you require any support.