



End of Term 4 Newsletter

April 2022



COVID-19

You will all be aware that free testing for the general public ends on 1st April as part of the Living with Covid plan. The latest guidance from the Government states that from 1st April:

- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.



We are expecting there to be updates to the special school guidance and, should this impact on school operation, we will update our risk assessment and inform all parents/carers.

Despite this guidance we do ask that, if possible, parents/carers of secondary aged students test their child prior to coming back to school on Tuesday 19th April.

Satellite Provision Update

We continue to work with the Local Authority regarding increasing satellite provision at the school. Year R/KS1 provision at Garlinge Primary for approximately 6 pupils is moving ahead. We will once again be offering satellite provision at Hartsdown Academy for approximately 12 Key Stage 3 students. We are also continuing to plan for our KS4 and 6th Form satellite provision at East Kent College for up to 24 students. It is hoped that we will be in a position to open all of the planned satellite provision in September 2022.

The consultation period for the satellite provision ended on 25th February. Kent County Council received a total of 15 responses to the consultation with the majority supportive of the proposal.

The report was presented to The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on Tuesday 1st March which was supportive of the proposal. We are awaiting the record of decision from the Committee meeting.

After the break, and once the plan has gone to public notice, we will start discussions with parents/carers of those pupils/students which we feel would benefit from attending our satellite provision.



Holi Celebration Day

On Tuesday 22nd March, pupils and students learnt about Holi as part of the RE curriculum. Holi is the Hindu festival of colour. It is a celebration of love, happiness and new beginnings. Pupils, students and staff came to school wearing brightly coloured clothes and participated in a range of learning activities including art, music, dance and cooking. Sixth Form students will be planning next term's celebration day.

Comic Relief

Pupils, staff and students raised £189.60 for Red Nose Day. The highlight of the day was when pupils voted for Adrian to be gunged on the school field!



Reporting Absence



When their child is absent from school, parents/carers should phone into the school office by 9.00am on the first morning of absence and keep the school updated on a daily basis of any further absence. Any absence not reported in this way has to be recorded as 'unauthorised'. This is a safeguarding requirement in

order that all parties know that children are safe and their whereabouts are known. If the school is not contacted to give a reason for an absence, it is registered as unauthorised.

Can we remind parents/carers that absence should not be reported on ClassDojo, or through drivers/escorts.

Emergency Contacts

It is a requirement that schools and colleges hold more than one emergency contact number for each pupil or student. Could you please ensure you provide at least one, but preferably two, additional emergency contact numbers for your child and that these numbers are current.



School Holidays



We fully understand how difficult the past 2 years have been for all of our parents/carers and their families. Undoubtedly, now that travel restrictions are being lifted, people may plan on booking a holiday. Please be aware that time off for holidays during term time will not normally be granted. Headteachers are not permitted to agree leave of absence during term time unless they are satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.

Where leave of absence is not agreed and the pupil or student is out of school or an application has not been made in advance, the absence is recorded as unauthorised. Please ensure that any request for leave of absence is made at least 2 weeks in advance. Please note, retrospective approval cannot be granted.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/pru-inclusion-and-attendance-service-pias/attendance/absence-during-term-time>



Parent/Carer Training Opportunities

Sharon Bremner has arranged training opportunities for parents/carers. After Easter we are holding the following session:

Wednesday 27th April 2022

Visual Perception Difficulties / Peer Massage and Breathing Strategies

Delivered by Andy Tuffs and Nanette Amas

Visual perception is the ability to make sense of information taken in through the eyes. It is the ability to recognise, remember, recall, discriminate, and make meaning of what we see.

Visual perception training will focus on strategies that can support children with visual perceptual difficulties.



Peer massage will cover positive touch and breathing strategies.

- **23rd – 27th May 2022: Foreland Science Week**
- **Friday 24th June 2022: School Diversity Day**
- **Sports Days 4th – 8th July 2022**
 - Monday 4th July 2022 – Explorers (Reserve – Monday 11th July 2022)
 - Tuesday 5th July 2022 – EYFS (Reserve – Tuesday 12th July 2022)
 - Wednesday 6th July 2022 – Pioneers (Reserve – Wednesday 13th July 2022)
 - Thursday 7th July 2022 – Lower School Discoverers (Reserve – Thursday 14th July 2022)
 - Friday 8th July 2022 – Upper School Discovers (Reserve - Monday 18th July 2022)
- **Friday 15th July 2022: Summer Fair 12:00pm – 2:50pm**



HELLO GOODBYE



We are really pleased that Grace Barker has returned after her maternity leave. Grace will be teaching 3 days a week in Octopus Class, covering for Kelly Hobbs who starts her maternity leave this week. Welcome back Grace and best of luck Kelly.

One of our long-standing Teaching Assistants Sherree Adams, will be leaving at the end of this term. We would like to wish Sherree all the best for the future.

We have 2 new Teachers starting with us after the Easter break, Hannah Perez who will be working 2 days a week within our Infant Department and Sarah McCarthy who is working 2 days in our Junior Department. Sarah previously worked at the school, and we look forward to having her back with us.

We also have 4 Teaching Assistants joining the school after the break; Georgia Barker, Joe Chick, Claire Pearch and Hollie Prior. Welcome all to the school.

I hope you all have a good break. I look forward to seeing all pupils and students back on Tuesday 19th April.

Adrian

