



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

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4th July 2020



Our focus over the last few weeks (and months) has been on maintaining contact with the children who have not been able to return to school – to ensure they are safe and seeing if there are any aspects of family life that we could assist with - and setting remote learning tasks (so all of our pupils could continue with their education at home) – whilst also reopening our school to more and more pupils. However, we also appreciate that so many of our pupils have worked incredibly hard this year and we should capture their greatest achievements – and the progress they have made since September – as usual, in an end of year report. These reports will be sent out this week.

As always, the attendance data on these reports captures your child's attendance from the date of their last report. Therefore, for the majority of our pupils, this is from 1st July 2019 until the school closed on 20th March 2020. *If your child is in Reception, or joined our school part way through the year, the attendance data is from the first day that they started at our school.*

An 'acceptable' level of attendance is anything above the national average for pupils attending primary school – which is 96.5%. However, as schools closed 4 months prior to the end of the usual school year, we have set the 'acceptable' level of attendance at 96.0% for 2019/20 – as we are aware that those children who were very close to this figure could have gone above this threshold if their attendance was high during the summer months. As a result, your child's attendance will only be highlighted as a barrier to their attainment and achievement in school, this year, if it is below 96.0%. *If your child was absent from school as a result of the need to self-isolate prior to the schools in England closing on 20th March 2020, these dates have been recorded as days when your child did not need to attend school – in accordance with the DfE and government guidelines – and will not have affected your child's school attendance record for this academic year.*

Reminder: If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 and is not in school, you MUST inform the school each day of the reason for this in order for your child's absence to be authorised. Even if you have decided to keep your child at home, as you feel that it is still unsafe for your child to return to school, we must be informed if they are ill – even if they have non-Covid related symptoms – so we can monitor the infection rate in the local area.

You will also notice a few other slight changes to the reports this year.

As no child has been able to cover the whole curriculum – and we now have a 'mastery curriculum' that requires every child, in each year group, to have a secure grasp and understanding of all aspects of the curriculum content for their specific year group – we, like all schools across the country, have not been able to make a true and accurate assessment of any child against the end of year expectations this year. We also recognise that some children may have made accelerated progress during the Summer Term, whilst others may have struggled to keep pace with the curriculum associated with their year group. Equally, we are keen to make a fresh assessment of the children when they return to school at the start of the new academic year, to ensure that we are able to 'fill' any gaps in their knowledge and revisit any aspects of the curriculum that they return to school insecure in – so they can build on this and have a successful time in school; feeling confident, self-assured and positive. As a consequence, we have deleted the attainment column and provided a more comprehensive and detailed report (comment) for each subject. *The amount of effort and your child's level of engagement in lessons is reflected in the comments your child's teacher has made.*

Whilst the mental health and well-being of all of our pupils has been of paramount importance over the last few months, we are aware that a number of parents and carers are keen to understand how they can best support their child over the summer to 'catch up'. With this in mind, your child has been set two English targets and two Maths targets – which are the four things, above everything else, that would make the greatest difference to your child's progress and attainment in these two areas of the curriculum became the focus of any extra support that you were able to provide over the summer.

To also help to ensure that your child continues to achieve well in school, you will also find a series of booklets and activities inside the envelope that contains your child's report which, IF you have the time to work on these over the summer, would help your child to start the new school year with extra confidence and reduce the chance of them encountering concepts that they are unfamiliar with. *If, for any reason, you are not in a position to prioritise these key components of the curriculum between now and the beginning of September, they are worth keeping and dipping in and out of throughout the next 12 months - to provide your child with opportunities to practise and reinforce the learning they will be actively engaged in when they return to school in September.*

You may have heard that schools are to receive some additional money to utilise and implement a 'catch up' programme for their pupils. We are still awaiting confirmation of how much extra funding our school will receive and when this money will be given to schools. As soon as we have this information, we will finalise our plans and share these with you.

Unfortunately the Year 6 Leavers' Book that Miss Whiting has been working incredibly hard on compiling, which was due to be sent out with the Year 6 reports, is not yet complete – and will be distributed in due course. Hopefully, this will prove to be worth the wait! *It is also our intention – if the guidelines at the time allow us to – to invite all of the children in Year 6 back to our school for a 'reunion' – to celebrate their achievements during their time at our school - towards the end of September.*

To minimise the number of handling each report, the reports have been printed with 'electronic signatures'. Furthermore, the contents of each envelope will not have been handled by anybody for over 72 hours when you finally receive your child's report.

We will be distributing the end of year reports throughout the week – to avoid any mass gatherings at the school – so please keep an eye on Studybugs, which is how we will inform you of how and when you are able to collect your child's report from the school – so we can coordinate this and ensure we do not jeopardise the safety of any of our families (or the pupils and staff working in school).

The New School Year



You may have already heard that attendance at school, from September, will be mandatory - and that schools will reopen to

all pupils at the start of the new academic year. We are currently working on these plans, based on the information and guidance issued last week, and hope to be in a position to share these with parents and carers prior to the end of the summer term.

It is our intention to still have an INSET Day on Wednesday 2nd September and for our school to reopen to pupils on Thursday 3rd September. *If you are unaware of the school holiday dates for next year, I have included these at the end of this newsletter.*

A few months ago, Miss Smith (our School Business Manager who works in the school office with Miss Simcock) took the decision to retire from work, from the end of the summer term.

Miss Smith does an amazing job and has become a familiar, friendly face to many people who have visited our school over the years that she has worked in the office

– as Office Manager, Bursar and, more recently, School Business Manager. She has worked at the school for a number of years – including before the school was burnt down – and throughout the whole time that the new building has been open.

There is no doubt that she will be deeply missed and it is such a shame that we are not able to publically acknowledge all of her hard work and years of dedicated service to our school in a special assembly, with the children and those families who would wish to pass on their gratitude; and to wish her well in her retirement.

The role of School Business Manager has been filled and Mr McClelland will take up this post over the summer, in preparation for the new academic year. He will run the school office, alongside Miss Simcock.

Many of you will also be aware that Miss Eustace took some time off work last year, to go travelling the Far East and Australia. Unfortunately her travelling was cut short.

As it is still unclear of when it will be deemed safe for people from the UK to travel abroad, Miss Eustace will be returning to our school in September (until the beginning of November) – so the children who are returning to school in Miss Eustace's class will have a familiar face and someone who knows them and what they are capable of, from the start of the school year. *We are in the midst of making an appointment of a new school teacher and a full-time teaching assistant, who will initially work alongside Miss Eustace and then continue to teach the class for the remainder of the school year (to ensure there is continuity and no interruption to the children's education) – and hope to be in a position to make an announcement about this next week.*

The staffing from September 2020 will be as follows:

Reception	Mrs Dixon-Gibbon*, Miss Ingram and Mrs Bickerton * Mrs Harvey will teach the class on a Wednesday – to provide Leadership and Management for Mrs Dixon-Gibbon (who is also the school's deputy headteacher).
The Fawns	Mrs Farrar, Miss Little & Mrs Duckworth
Year 1	Miss Roberts and Mrs Harvey (Mon & Tues) / Miss Hunt (Wed, Thurs & Fri)
Year 2	Mrs Birchall and Miss Hunt (Mon & Tues) / Mrs Burge (Wed, Thurs & Fri)
Year 3	Miss Eustace – supported by a newly appointed class teacher and teaching assistant – and Mrs Doolan

Year 4 Mrs Moss, Miss Jones* and Mrs Clemson-Banks

* Miss Stephens will be on maternity leave from the start of the new school year. During this period, Miss Jones will provide additional support in Year 4 – after which, we hope that she will be able to return to her role of Pastoral Support Worker (which has proven to be highly successful this year).

Year 5 Mrs Williams and Mrs Urmson

Year 6 Miss Whiting and a newly appointed teaching assistant*

* Mr Bradshaw is likely to be undergoing surgery over the summer and is unlikely to be able to return to work in September. To ensure the children in UKS2 have a team of four people driving their learning and supporting them with their education, the school will recruit an extra member of staff during this period. *Furthermore, to ensure consistency and to raise standards, Miss Whiting will teach English across both Year 5 and Year 6 next year – and Mrs Williams will teach Mathematics across both Year 5 and Year 6 – from the beginning of the new school year.*

Mr Bradshaw will rejoin the UKS2 team on his return.

Every Child A Reader Teacher Mrs Anderson

Assistant Headteacher (SENDCO And Safeguarding Lead0 Mrs Ellis

Summer Camp



Although we are having some substantial work to the school roof over the summer, we have been offered the opportunity to host a Summer Camp – that will be open

for 16 days over the 6 weeks holiday.

This would most likely operate from 9am until 3pm – and be offered free of charge to any child who is currently eligible for free school meals (and receiving the free school meal vouchers).

The camp would be run by a company called S4YC, would include a variety of art and sporting activities (plus a free meal at lunchtime – in the form of a packed lunch) and the maximum number of attendees each day would be 32 – with the children being split into bubbles.

Registration for the club would be online – and, should this go ahead, information will be sent out to all families who are able to access this next week.

Holiday Dates for 2020/21

	First day of term	Last day of term
Autumn Term	Thursday 3 September 2020	Friday 23 October 2020
	Monday 2 November 2020	Friday 18 December 2020
Spring Term	Monday 4 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021
	Monday 22 February 2021	Thursday 1 April 2021
Summer Term *	Monday 19 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021
	Monday 7 June 2021	Friday 16 July 2021

* Includes May Bank Holiday: Monday 3 May 2021

INSET Days

Wednesday 2 Sept 2020	Monday 19 July 2021	Tuesday 20 July 2021	Wednesday 21 July 2021	Thursday 22 July 2021
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Please remember, these dates are always available from the school website.

