



**Remote Learning**

We have so far been lucky that we have not had a positive case of COVID19 that has led to bubbles of pupils being sent home to self-isolate. The school has continued to look at remote learning platforms and have signed up to receive training on using google classroom having been successful with a bid from the DfE to fund the implementation. Once we have completed the training we will roll this out with pupils. Until then, the staff have planned units of work ready if a bubble does have to go into self-isolation. This will be accessible from the school website, as was the case during lockdown. Finally, thank you to all those parents who did consent for us to continue to use the Seesaw app.

**School Building Update- Change to Term Dates**

The school building is still progressing well with the majority of walls painted and flooring complete in the classrooms. We are still unable to show pictures or photos, much to our annoyance, but we will one day have lots of opportunity to display them in the new building. Throughout this term as we get closer to the building nearing completion, so more details are being updated and we are being asked to make decisions on the building on a daily basis.

Unfortunately our agreed plans for the school move made in the summer have been recently revised in order for the DfE team to meet their deadlines. As a result we now have a different timeline to follow in order to pack the school up ready for the move. This means that we have to change our published end of term date in December and start date in January. Our new revised term dates are as follows:

**End of Autumn Term for pupils – Now Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020 -@13.30**

**Start of Spring Term for pupils- Now Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

In effect, we are starting the holiday two days earlier but coming back to school two days earlier as well. If you have booked a holiday with the original start of spring term date, then we will not penalise you for this absence. (If any of us will be allowed to leave the country then!)

Many parents have asked if they can help with the move. Fortunately within the building contract, a specialist removal firm will transport the equipment for us. The school staff will still need to pack the 600 plus crates and cages ready for the move but at this moment the staff are best placed to do this as they will know what needs to move and what needs to be disposed.

Some parents have asked whether we will be able to look after key worker children during this extended 'break'. Unfortunately this will not be possible. During this time of the move, we will still have builders on both sites and crates to unpack. We will not be in a position to provide child care in these circumstances as we will be pushed to be ready for the school to re-open on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

Unfortunately, as I mentioned in the summer term when we published the original term dates, we are at the mercy of the building project being completed on time and there not being any further changes. This is still the case, particularly if the building site has to close due to an outbreak of COVID19. That said, with eight weeks to go, it is better to give you as much time as possible to help you with your planning.

In a normal school year we have 190 contact days with pupils. This year due to the building works, we will have 185 contact days with pupils and will provide home learning for the other five days. The good news is that after the school move, there will be no more INSET days at the start or end of terms this academic year, so we are maximising our time with the pupils. Moving into a new school building is not an every year event, thankfully for my sanity!

**E-Safety**

Please find attached with this newsletter this term's e-safety letter from Herts for Learning.

### **Meet Your Teacher Remote Sessions**

Despite a few technical issues, we hope you found these sessions offered useful. Certainly we had more people attend remotely rather than in person which obviously we need to reflect on for next year. It was great to see parents multi-tasking at work or in Sainsbury's! The presentations were available prior to the meetings and can be found on the website here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxwnrjv4>

### **School uniform**

With the weather turning wetter, please do ensure that your child has suitable footwear when we go onto the field at breaktimes. Wellington boots are ideal as the field is now already very muddy.

Please do check that your child's uniform still has their name tag or name clearly labelled. Please also check that water bottles are clearly labelled.

Finally we move into our winter uniform requirements and the end of summer dresses and shorts. Please check the school website for more information.

### **First Holy Communion**

Congratulations to all our First Holy Communicants and their parents. We are so proud of all of you who worked so hard in preparing for this sacrament.

### **Farewell Fr. Carlos**

Today we say goodbye as a school to Fr Carlos. He has been a great supporter of the school and I can honestly say that the children, staff and governors have really treasured his time as our chaplain and governor. Not many priests can quote 'The Simpsons' in a Year 6 leaver's service. Soon after his arrival, I realised that I had to prepare in my head two closing remarks because he often would say exactly what I was going to say to the children in his homilies! We wish him the very best for the next stage of his journey. Thank you Fr Carlos!

### **Parking**

We continue to receive complaints from local councillors, residents and other concerned adults about inconsiderate parking around the local streets, including cars being parked over private driveways, on kerbs and other illegal practices. Unfortunately inconsiderate and illegal parking puts people at risk of injury. The local residents do feel outrage over this form of parking and undoubtedly will lead to parents getting parking tickets and fines from the police. We now have staggered times in the mornings and afternoons. If you only have KS2 pupils, then drop them off at the latest times possible rather than the earliest. Do park and stride from slightly further away from the school eg the Sainsbury's car park.

### **DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS**

**Please note: Dinner money must be paid in advance.** School meal prices are £2.70 per day, £13.50 per week. You may pay any amount of your choice to keep your balance in credit. Please pay online using the School Gateway system. All you need to do to activate an account is download the school gateway from your app store or visit the website [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com) and click new user. You will receive a message with a PIN number and you can use this to log in. Please be sure the school office has your up to date email and mobile phone number.

Two weeks' notice in writing to Nicky Thompson, our Catering Manager, is required for any changes in dietary pattern.

### **Finally**

It is hard to believe we are at the end of the half term today. The pupils have really relished being back in school and have adopted a positive attitude to all that we have asked from them in terms of keeping to their own bubbles and the frequency of handwashing throughout the school day. During this half term we have been undertaking more PSHE, PE, reading and maths lessons in the week to help the children start to make ground on the time lost to lockdown. This will continue next half term.

I am very proud of the efforts of the staff in also having to adapt to new routines and classroom setups, as well as the getting back into a new normal way of undertaking their duties. I am blessed to be surrounded by a great staff.

Please remember that Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October is an INSET day and school is closed to pupils.

I wish you all a peaceful half term.