

### Head Of Schools Blog

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back! I do hope the half term break treated you well and you managed to spend some quality family time together. I cannot believe I am now writing the newsletter in term 4 and we will soon be moving into March! Where is the time going? The days are getting longer and it won't be long until the summer sun starts to shine. However, we have been treated to an early Spring in the last week.

The start of a new term is a very special time. It allows us all to start afresh and build on our current successes. The children continue to be amazing. They continue to be engaged in learning, polite and smartly dressed. I ask you to encourage your children at home by reading at bed time each night, completing homework, spending some family time in our hectic lives. Maybe even a no technology night! We are fast approaching the busy time of year for Primary Schools which includes the Year 2 and 6 SATs in May, Year 1 phonics in June and endless, engaging learning for all.

Attendance remains an issue but particularly lateness. Please try to get your children to school on time. If you need advice or support, then please speak to the school.

Communication remains one of my focuses between school and home as it is essential to your child's academic progression and success, so whether you prefer to email via the office, phone call, text or face-to-face conversation, all Dame Janet staff members will be happy to help. I am fully aware that communication is an on-going issue and not an easy one to solve. We are always looking for new ideas to improve communication. The newsletter is being reviewed. We will be looking at sending it out at the start of each term so you know what is coming up for the term. There will be six a year, one for each term. There will be an update from me, diary dates, what each year group will be learning that term and attendance figures. Hopefully this is vital information you need as a parent.

Unfortunately, it has come to my attention that some of our parents are writing negative comments on social media about the school or members of my staff. Social media is a public forum and this is not the platform to write comments in this nature. I would therefore ask you to not write negative comments that puts the school and its staff into disrepute. It can be hurtful when individuals are mentioned and totally unnecessary; it doesn't achieve anything positive.

If you have any comments or complaints about any of my staff, I would ask that you raise them with the class teacher in the first instance, or a member of SLT or Headship on the school gate, rather than on social media. If there are comments that put the school or staff into disrepute then, as Head of School, I will take action immediately and seek legal advice.

Another community issue is the busy road, upper gate and congestion on the pavement. Our new crossing patrol should be starting imminently. As a school, this is out of our control though; the crossing patrol is employed by Kent County Council and not the school. Hopefully when she starts, I'm sure it will make a positive difference. We are very lucky to have supportive parents who came forward for this new role. Many schools struggle to get a crossing patrol and don't have one. We are also looking at widening the gate on the Year 5/6 playground but as I'm sure you appreciate this takes time and a lot of money! I ask you for your patience with this matter. Again we always look out for new ideas such as cones outside the school to stop people dropping off. Basically, we are aware of the problem and trying to ease it. I just ask that all parents meet us half way and drive/park sensibly.

I will always have high expectations in mind whether it is regarding learning, behavior, attendance, uniform, respect or manners. I'm sure you want the same so please support us with this. A sincere thank you to all the parents that do support with this.

I continue to be at the lower site on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday and the upper site on Tuesday and Thursday so I look forward to seeing you on the playground then. The Deputy Head Teacher (Mrs. Sherwin) will be at lower site on Tuesday and Thursday and upper on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please come and speak to us! If there is a problem, then please come and let us know so together we can address it. The problem cannot be solved if we are unaware of it.

Have a great term 4!

Mr Marshall

Head of School

### What are we up to this Term

With a renewed focus on our project lessons over the last 18 months, the afternoon learning for the children is going from strength to strength just like their learning in Maths and English. Teachers are planning exciting and engaging lessons which are capturing the interests of the children. I have included a brief overview of what's coming up for each year group in the next term:

Continued



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Year 6: **Wonders of the World.** Year 6 continue to further their learning about our world and move on to looking at the Mayan Civilisation while making comparisons between our way of life and theirs. There will be a focus on food with the children using their learning in Design Technology to plan, create and make burritos; the smell in the Year 6 corridor is sure to be delicious! Their learning in Science will be looking at classifying animals with a tricky look at dichotomous keys!

Year 5: **Rolling Stones.** Year 5 will be studying the Stone Age to the Iron Age, with an in-depth look at Stone Henge. The knowledge taken here will be transferred across to Art and Design where children will be making clay pots - make space on one of your shelves for when the pots make their way home to you! In Science, the children will be looking at the life-cycles of different animals and plants and eagerly await the arrival of duck eggs that they will be able to witness hatching

Year 4: **Life as we know it.** Our Year 4 children will be looking at the wonder of volcanoes, refining their map work skills and continuing to improve their programming skills in their computing lessons. They'll be working with the expertise of our site manager to find out how the brilliant work we have done with our Forest School has still ensured that we protect our environment.

Year 3: **Super Saxons and the Splendid Scots.** Our Year 3 children will be finding out how the Saxons lived, their roles in the community and where they lived. They'll have fun creating their own Anglo-Saxon settlement. In science, the learning will focus on animals and humans with a greater focus on skeletons; what we need as humans to survive and the importance of looking after ourselves.

Year 2: **London's Burning.** The children will be learning all about the great fire: how it started, why it spread, the effect it had on the city and how life in London has changed since 1666. Our learning will take us outside to experience the sounds and sights of a real fire (albeit a camp fire!) and try to understand how the people of London would have felt at the time.

Year 1: **The Blue Planet.** The children will be looking closely at different sea creatures and labelling them, as well as asking geographical questions. Year 1 will also be exploring the pollution of our planet's seas and oceans and how we can influence this by recycling. Expect your child to become an expert of our planet!

Year R: **Farm to Fork.** Year R plan to have another busy term of learning with their project: the children are already hugely excited by our incubators which contain eggs which are hatching in to chicks before their very eyes! The children will be having a closer look at planting and growth and considering how to live and eat healthily. The children will also show their reflective side by understanding how to care for living things and even our environment.

Nursery: **Traditional Tales.** Our Nursery children will be doing lots of fun activities that help them to understand how stories are structured and will use their knowledge of familiar language to develop their communication skills. Our Nursery children will be designing their own Gingerbread man/lady and use them to re-tell the story. While looking at Jack and the Beanstalk, the children will be watching their own bean plant grow and using their maths skills to measure how tall it gets. There will be lots of outside learning on offer with gardening in our outside area.

Mrs Sherwin

### Miss Lawrence

Miss Lawrence our Parent Support Advisor is now Safeguarding Lead for the school as Mrs Herd has left us. Any safeguarding concerns or parenting advice please contact Miss Lawrence on the school number or 07557340801. Alternatively you can catch her at the gates on the following days.

Monday Tuesday Friday- Lower school

Wednesday and Thursday - upper school

### Payment for school Lunches

To avoid cash payments at the school office for school lunches we would like to advise you that Principals Catering operate an online payment system which is quick and easy to use.

We would like to encourage you to use this system by logging on to [www.principals-catering.com](http://www.principals-catering.com) and then follow the on screen instructions

### Message from Miss Lawrence

All children must remain with their adult whilst collecting children from the year 5 and 6 playground. We have had a number of younger children running onto the field and climbing the muga which is a safety issue. Please make sure that your children stay behind the cones with you.

Clare Lawrence

### Medication

If you need us to administer prescribed medication to your child, please make sure that it comes in with the appropriate paper work filled in. The medication also needs to be in the original packaging with the prescription label visible.

### Diary Dates

#### March 2019

7th World Book Day

8th open afternoon for parents

12th Shakespeare club to Canterbury

15th Red Nose Day

18th & 19th YR R Hearing and Vision tests

20th Easter Cracked

#### April 2019

4th 11 am & 2.30 pm Nursery parents Easter Crafts

5th END OF TERM 4

23rd START OF TERM 5

23rd St George's Day

29th April **MOCK SATS DAY**

### Newsletter

As we eventually want to make the Newsletter paperless, please make sure you supply us with your email address, so we can send it directly to you. You can still find it on our Facebook page too. Thank you.



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**Attendance and lateness for Term 3**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Attendance %</b>	<b>Late arrivals</b>
Shorty's	81.1	21
Scotland	87.8	9
Ireland	93.1	41
China	89.4	15
Mexico	91.5	20
Japan	90.2	38
Canada	92.0	31
Australia	92.5	20
America	89.3	35
Brazil	92.6	20
Greece	94.6	16
Jamaica	96.3	15
Madagascar	95.3	24
India	94.5	26
Italy	94.7	19
Switzerland	91.3	10
Egypt	89.2	43
France	92.2	61
New Zealand	95.2	24
<b>Total for Term 3</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>488</b>

**Don't forget, if your child is ill enough to be absent from school you**

**MUST phone each day on 591807 or 07741634004 before 9am.**