

3rd July 2020

School Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I sincerely hope you, the children and your families are keeping well and looking after yourselves both mentally and physically.

Well, we are nearly at the end of the school year with only two and a half weeks to go and what a year it has been. It has been extremely challenging but I hope come September, we will get back to normal. I would just like to let you know about a couple of things for the remainder of the academic year.

End of Year Reports

End of year reports are now ready to be distributed. For obvious reasons, this year is slightly different because of lockdown. This year, we are only reporting on your child's progress from September 2019 until March 2020. Comments about subjects, homework, attitude, behaviour etc. refer to this time period only. Next week, you will be able to collect your child's reports.

Dates and times for collection:

- Wednesday 8th July 9:00am until 12:00pm or;
- Thursday 9th July 12:00pm – 15:00pm

Location: Annexe building off Highfield Road. There will be a one-way system for parents. Please remember to keep to 2 metres social distance. I would kindly ask you to collect your child's envelope and leave the school grounds straight away. Please can I ask only one parent collects. A member of staff will be there to hand over the report to you.

If you cannot make Wednesday or Thursday due to self-isolating, then please don't worry. We will be sending out the remaining reports by post on Friday 10th July.

New home learning packs will also be attached to the reports for children to complete over the summer holiday.

Transition

Obviously we want transition to happen as normal but at the moment this cannot happen. We are so upset that we will not be having transition day to meet your new teacher, sports day, prom for Year 6, graduation, shirt signing and meet and greet for reception this side of the summer. We have talked about this in length but as a school we must follow government guidance which advises against these activities. All of these events go against government guidance and as much as we want to, health and safety of children, parents and staff must come first.

Information about your child's new teacher will be in the school report. Information on how to contact your new class teacher will also be in the letter.



@DJPAoutstanding



Summer closure

As a school we are proud of the part we have been able to play during the COVID crisis. Despite all of the challenges we have been able to keep our school open and safe for the children of Key workers and vulnerable pupils. In addition, we have been able to provide remote learning via our school website and regular contact for all our parents. More recently we have been delighted that we have been able to welcome more children back to school.

The Kemnal Academies Trust, based on Government guidance, has advised us that we should close our school for the summer break. Also, parts of the school roof are due to be replaced and repaired during the summer which has been planned for months. **Therefore, the school will be closed for all children including Key Worker and vulnerable children.**

Last day of term is Wednesday 22nd July at 3:10pm. The new term where all children must come back to school is Thursday 3rd September. More details to follow.

At this time, guidance from the Government about the arrangements for September came out yesterday. When we have digested the guidelines, we will let you know our plans.

Thank you and Good Luck

A special thank you to all the parents and carers. I totally appreciate this has been a very new and challenging time. It has been hard to get children to concentrate on learning at home and give them school work that isn't too easy or too hard. I appreciate technology has been a barrier too. In one way or another we have all been on a learning journey. However, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and patience you have given the school. Please don't feel guilty if you feel you haven't done the right thing. In our eyes you have been amazing and come September we will work our hardest to fill any gaps and get the children back on track.

An extra special message to the children of Dame Janet. You are incredible and I am very proud of you. You have been amazing through all of this. I am very saddened that this has been such a disruptive year to your education. In September, we will all work extremely hard to complete lots of learning. We cannot wait to see you again.

Year 6 – I am especially upset for you. This is your last year of primary school and it hasn't ended the way you had expected. It hasn't ended the way we expected either. However, you are a credit to your families and a credit to the school. You will always be a big part of the school and I thank you for all your hard work and dedication. Your new journey into secondary school starts in September and if you feel nervous, just remember that everyone is in the same boat and you are not on your own. Take a deep breath and take one day at a time. Enjoy it and remember the world is yours. Anything is possible. Go and get it.

Goodbye

Sadly, this will now be my last letter as Head of School at Dame Janet. As you all know, I am moving to St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School as Head teacher from September. I didn't expect my last year at Dame Janet would be like this but there we go. I want to thank all my colleagues/friends, children, governors and parents for your support over the 9 nine years I have worked here. The children are a credit to you all and the staff are just amazing. The team that I have had the pleasure to work with are fantastic. They really do go above and beyond for the children in our care. I have had the most enjoyable time and I shall miss it. I will certainly keep in touch though. I wish Mrs Sherwin, who becomes the new Head of School in September, all the very best. The school will be in very good hands.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and summer break when it arrives. Stay safe, stay healthy and Dame Janet looks forward to seeing you all back to school in September.

Best wishes

Mr Marshall

Head of School