



A member of the Harlington and Sundon Academy Trust

SUMMER TERM 2020 NEWSLETTER

Friday 19TH June 2020

Our June Value is positivity

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all keeping well and safe. We have had an incredibly successful but busy week in school. The children in our teaching groups or 'bubbles' have settled well into our new routines and it is wonderful to see them enjoying their learning and having fun. Can we kindly remind parents to keep to their allocated drop off and collection times for individual groups so that we don't have large numbers of parents and children at the school gate. We must maintain our strict health and safety measures including social distancing so we all keep safe.

Sad news

It is with very great sadness that I have to inform you that following a long illness Mrs Shelvey sadly passed away on 13th June 2020. Mrs Shelvey retired as Headteacher in August 2017. She was kind, caring and passionate about providing all aspects of learning for our children and families within the community. She successfully provided inspirational and professional leadership and was instrumental in forming the Harlington and Sundon Academy Trust for 8 years. She will be greatly missed by staff and trustees. Our condolences and thoughts are with her family at this time. Many parents and children will have lots of wonderful memories of Mrs Shelvey. If you would like to send any messages, we will be compiling a book of condolence to pass onto her family. Please email these into our office.

Home Learning provision

We will continue to promote and support learning at home for those children whose families are choosing to remain at home, in addition to those who are not yet allowed to return. As with previous weeks, each year group's learning activities will be provided by class teachers via the email class system. Thank you for supporting your child with their learning. The efforts you are making to support learning may not be easy but I encourage you to keep going! You are all doing a fantastic job and staff appreciate how difficult this may be with juggling your commitments to your families, home and work. Please remember to send your child's teacher two pieces of work per week so we can see how well your child is doing.

Zoom circle times

In order to support children's social and emotional well-being we have introduced 'zoom' PHSE lessons. This week Miss Vale has organised and invited children to take part in 'Circle time' activities where small groups of children from their year group have met virtually. Miss Vale hosts these sessions and reports that they have been successful; the groups have had lots of fun and children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part. Subject to staff capacity we hope to continue these sessions weekly until the end of term.

Free School Meals - If you think you are eligible

Please contact the department below if you think you are or will be eligible to apply for Free School Meals. Pupils do not have to take our meals if they do not want to but, if they are on our Free School Meals register, then they qualify for all sorts of other financial benefits throughout the year. When a pupil is on our Free School Meals register, the school receives extra money for that pupil which has to be spent only on the education of free school meals pupils. This extra money is called the Pupil Premium and its purpose is to ensure that children from low income families are not at a financial disadvantage during their education as a result of home circumstances.

Is my child eligible for Pupil Premium?

In order for the school to receive the Pupil Premium funding a Parent/Carer must be claiming one of the following benefits:

- ❖ Universal Credit (provided they have an annual net earned income of no more than £7400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of their most recent assessment periods)
- ❖ Income Support
- ❖ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ❖ Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- ❖ Working Tax Credit run-on paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- ❖ The guarantee element of Pension Credit.
- ❖ Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ❖ Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16190)

In order to register your Child to receive Pupil Premium you will need to go to the following website and follow the instructions: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or call **0300 300 8306**.

Most recent Government advice about phased reopening of schools

The latest Government guidance which is also confirmed by Central Bedfordshire is that Lower/ Primary Schools should only welcome back additional children where schools have the capacity. I know many of you like all our staff and trustees want your child to return to school before the end of term. However, at this time we sadly **do not** have any capacity to invite other year groups into school. Primary schools have been asked to make provision for children of critical key workers, vulnerable children and children in nursery, reception and Year 1 and 6. In order to accommodate these children into school we have to adhere to protective measures guidance and risk assessments. The DfE state that provision for critical worker and vulnerable children remains a priority and cannot be sacrificed to allow more children to return.

This week, with many parents returning to work, we have had increased demand for places in our key worker provision. In order to accommodate demand, we now have reorganised groupings and staff and have two key worker/ vulnerable teaching groups at Harlington and one at Sundon. These groups are now at full capacity. The result of this increased demand has meant we do not have any spare staffing capacity or room to invite other year groups into school which we had hoped to do. Until guidance regarding social distancing and pupil ratios changes we cannot safely invite children into school.

We hope to invite children into school before the end of term to have some time with their class and new teacher as part of transition and will await changes to guidance so please bear with us. Any plans will be communicated with parents. I know many of you have asked about Year 4 transition but again we will communicate plans as soon as we are able. I understand it is very frustrating especially if other local schools may be inviting other year groups into school however they may have greater capacity for this. The school cannot change the Government guidance given.

Please contact Access and Inclusion and Central Bedfordshire if you need to request a keyworker provision. Access.Inclusion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

The Grove cancelled Inspiring Music Concert

Due to the Covid-19 situation Inspiring Music have had to cancel all the Sing Out Play Out concerts this year and they have not been able to reschedule the dates as yet. Their Music Director is looking at a number of options so please bear with us and we will communicate these to you as soon as possible.

With regards to refunds for tickets, a large number of staff at The Grove have been furloughed as the theatre is currently closed due to the pandemic. There are only a small number of staff who are currently working remotely and processing refunds at the moment. Please bear with The Grove whilst they work through these. The Box Office is currently closed however if parents would like to speak to The Grove, please complete the show cancellation form and a member of The Grove staff will be in

contact as soon as they can. The form can be found here
<http://www.grovetheatre.co.uk/show-reschedule-cancellation-form/>.

Caythorpe 2021

This is the time of year when we usually ask current Year 3 parents if they are interested in their child attending the PGL residential school trip, unfortunately due to the pandemic we are not in a position to offer this visit until all schools are back to their usual schedule for all pupils. We will look at our options regarding this visit on our return in the autumn term when hopefully there will be more clarity and guidance on the situation.

Caterlink Dinner Money

All year 3 children's dinner money will be carried forward to September if they were in credit. Year 4 will receive a refund by September and Caterlink will make arrangements to do this direct to parents.

School sports week

As part of National School Sports Week, next week, Beds School Games is running a virtual Pentathlon Challenge for schools and individuals to take part in. There are 5 challenges, 1 for each day of NSSW.

You can participate if you're at home and even with your teachers if you are in school. The challenges are for all ages, including adults, so we are also encouraging staff and parents to get involved if they can! Challenge your family members to see who can get the highest score - can you beat the score of your teacher, parent or carer?

Please keep a note of the scores you get from each challenge. The points you earn, will be collated and as a school, we will be in with a chance of featuring on the leader board for our area in the County. Challenges will be sent home via email to you all Friday afternoon.

If you are at home, Miss Vale will be collecting scores on Zoom calls next week. If in school, teachers will collect your scores.

Results will be announced during the afternoon of Friday 26th June. Good luck!