

Headteacher's weekly newsletter (Nº2)

11th September 2020

- We are back and it's really good to have a full school. In fact we have more children enrolled (358) at Guillemont for more than a decade. Y4 and Yr5 are full with waiting lists.
- Yr3 have settled very quickly into routines and I'm really impressed that nearly all of them enter the school independently. So, from next week the teachers will be in their classroom and a member of the support staff will be outside to greet them. This is amazing because it usually takes a few weeks to get to this point at the start of the year. Well done Yr3! Adults accompanying Yr3 children can still come onto the site and drop off near the door as per usual but please do not enter the building.
- If you need to refresh your memories regarding the access arrangements, please refer to last week's newsletter.
- Congratulations to Yr4, Yr5 and Yr6 children; they have very quickly adapted to the new routines we all have to live with.
- Thank you to all parents and carers for your support. It has been a challenge for all of us to adjust to a new way of operating the school. I do not now think that we will be able to return to what we thought was 'normal' until next year. All I can do is to ask that you continue to be supportive, maintain social distancing and know what to do if your child(ren) are unwell.
- I sense a growing frustration when families are advised to have a Covid-19 test. For example, a secondary school child was told by their GP to book a test last Wednesday. The first available appointment was tomorrow in Bristol. All I can suggest is that we inform our local MP and ask for an explanation as I do not have any influence regarding booking tests.
- I have been made aware that there is a video about suicide doing the rounds. It is being copied to several platforms including Tik Tok and WhatsApp. It is horrific and we need to protect our children from it. **Please be extra vigilant and check what your children are accessing online.**
- Linked to the above and the school's dress code, clothing that advertises, for example Tik Tok or Fortnite are not allowed. Fortnite is a game I believe to be unsuitable for young children to play – the ESRB rate it 'T' because of the violence (gunfire, explosions and cries of pain).
- Several parents have expressed concern about dogs being brought into the car park area either at the beginning or end of the day. Dogs do intimidate some adults and very young children. Dogs are not allowed on the school site. The site includes the staff/visitor car parks. So, **please do not bring your dogs into the staff car park area – thank you.**
- Last week I issued a list of things that children need to bring. The vast majority of children are complying - thank you for your support. Just a couple of things:
 - No ruck sacks please
 - Brenda's are struggling to meet all of the PE kit orders. We have some second-hand PE kit in school if that will help – ask at reception
 - We now have more book bags in stock
 - Please provide healthy snack – no nuts/nut products as we have children with severe allergies.

- **Exciting news:** Early next week we will make live our new website. This has been deferred from last April. An email will be sent home before we 'throw the switch'. The new website will give us more opportunities to share photographs and videos and hopefully will be easier to navigate around. The Guillemont App will not function for a while.
 - This week Yr3 have been introduced to a GaGa Pit. In fact they were the first children in England to play this American game. Please ask them to tell you all about it. There is a photograph below
 - Yr5 have had a 'Space day' today. They enjoyed tasting astronaut food, making craft stars and a planetarium projector. Please see the photograph below.
 - The Covid-19 situation makes it very difficult for the school to operate our extensive range of extra-curricular activities. I have been in discussions with colleagues and external providers to begin to re-introduce activities that comply with current safety guidance. I hope to be able to offer:
 - Football (CM Sports)
 - Multi-sports (CM Sports)
 - Street Dance (CM Sports)
 - Drum lessons (starting 16th September 2020)
 - Recorder lessons (with Mrs Gray)
 - Mini-tennis (starting asap see below)
 - Rock Steady (starting 17th or 24th September 2020)
 - A distanced O2 Choir (with Mrs Gray)
- I hope to be able to write to you next week with more details. Remember that Kew Dance Academy lessons are running as per usual and please note that all external providers will charge for their sessions.
- If you are interested in your child participating in mini-tennis sessions, please contact James Vass, of JV Tennis Coaching, directly: jamesvassFLT@gmail.com or call 07729120330. Thursday 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Yr3 small playground. 10 places £36 for six weeks. You need to send James your child's name, class and a contact number.
 - The planned 'meet the teacher' evenings have had to be cancelled. However, staff have produced a voice-over PowerPoint presentation for you. These will be available next week via the new website. If the planned parent consultation are still prevented under current restrictions (rule of 6), then we are planning to use Zoom/Teams/Meets – more to follow. If you need to speak to the class teacher, please use the phone in the first instance.
 - Finally, a reminder that if a member of your family tests positive for Covid-19, your child(ren) must self-isolate for 14 days. They only need a test if they develop symptoms. If they are tested during the 14 day isolation and its negative, they cannot return to school for the 14 days counting from the day of the positive test of the parent/carer/other family member.

Best wishes

Denis Foster (Headteacher)



On the 1st April 2020 I issued staff with PPE as we prepared for the return of children.