



Head's Update, Michaelmas 1, Week 1, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now completed one whole week of the new normal and things seem to be going well despite the challenges we all face. Children have quickly become used to routines and school feels much better now that it has the sounds of happy children in it. I enjoy watching the children from my office window as they explore, play and learn together. Despite the news of further lockdowns and more restrictions in place from Monday I am really pleased with how this week has gone and how well everyone has done. We are all still learning and we have been improving what we're doing to make the school experience even better for the children. I hope you agree.

Music

Children in Year 2 and 3 need an Ocarina in school every Wednesday for their Class music lesson with Mrs Palmer. If your child does not have an Ocarina, you can purchase this via ParentMail.

Children in Year 4, and 5 need a Recorder in school every Wednesday for their Class music lesson with Mrs Palmer. If your child does not have a Recorder, you can purchase this via ParentMail. All Recorder and Ocarina lessons happen outdoors. Year 6 won't need their Recorder in school until Lent Term as they will be learning the Ukulele.

Individual peripatetic music lessons start next week. Please make sure your child has their instrument and music on the correct day:

- Monday 14th September- Vocal lessons
- Tuesday 15th September - Violin and Cello lessons
- Wednesday 16th September - Piano lessons (Year 1, 5 and 6)
- Thursday 17th September - Piano lessons (Year 3 and 4)
- Friday 18th September - Woodwind lessons

We may have space if your child is interested in joining our peripatetic voice and instrumental lessons provided by Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT). If you are interested please email the School Office for further details

Nursery

Nursery children have settled in beautifully this week, welcoming back old faces as well as new. We have been exploring conkers and acorns outside under our bright canopy, as well as taking a wander through the orchard in our wonderful School grounds. The children have enjoyed playing with the babies, pushing the buggies, making delicious food in the toy kitchen and washing toys in the water tray to learn about good hygiene. There has been lots of construction in Nursery, from Duplo and the giant bricks, to creating a huge Ice Cream Van out of cardboard. Children have enjoyed designing their own ice creams to buy and sell with their friends.



We have decided that Nursery parents will be able to collect their children from 3pm from Monday if this helps your personal circumstances. We know that some of you need to collect children from other schools and many of you have children in our school and it's difficult to coordinate all of the pick-ups. We also need to balance the risks of having parents on-site. We therefore ask that if you arrive before 3:15pm, when the gates will officially open, you ring the buzzer and a member of staff will let you in. Only one parent should collect from Nursery, wearing a suitable face covering. If you arrive after 3:10pm, please be patient and wait for the gates to open. We hope that this makes pick-up for some families easier. If you're collecting from St Peter's, you must leave the site and wait on the Crescent and not enter other parts of the school grounds. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Dates for your diary

I'm aware that some of you will want to know school dates, like Parent-Teacher Consultations. We've planned all of the school events for the academic year and soon we'll be publishing them. Please bear in mind that some events won't be able to take place or may need additional planning. Unfortunately, some events may need to be cancelled if they aren't COVID-friendly or compliant with guidance at the time of the event. Please see below some important dates for your diary for this term, which are subject to change:

- Harvest Festival - Thursday 8th October
- Share Your Work - Monday 19th October
- Conker Championships - Friday 23rd October
- Last Day of Michaelmas Term 1 - Friday 23rd October
- First Day of Michaelmas Term 2 - Monday 2nd November
- Upper School Tudor Day - Tuesday 3rd November
- Children in Need Day - Friday 13th November
- Year 6 Class Assembly - Monday 16th November
- Parent-Teacher Consultations R-Y6 - Monday 16th November & Tuesday 17th November
- Year 5 Class Assembly - Monday 23rd November
- Year 5 & 6 WOW Day - Tuesday 24th November
- Foundation Stage Christmas Concert - Wednesday 2nd December
- Y1 & Y2 Christmas Concert - Wednesday 2nd December
- PTA Christmas Fayre - Saturday 5th December
- Sunnylands Nursery Christmas Songs - Wednesday 9th December
- Christmas Carol Service - Wednesday 16th December
- Last Day of Michaelmas Term 2 - Wednesday 16th December
- First Day of Lent Term 1 - Tuesday 5th January 2021

Sadly, I think many of the above events will need to change format but we'll communicate before each one if and how it will happen. I know that the PTA are already thinking hard about COVID-friendly events for the school year. I'm sure they'd welcome any suggestions and volunteers. School trips have also been scheduled but again, we may need to wait until later in the year for these to restart properly when restrictions are reduced.



Clubs

We've been working really hard all week to create an exciting but COVID-friendly set of clubs for the Michaelmas term. The full list of clubs will be launched next week and they'll start the following week. We have taken extra care to ensure that all of our clubs can operate safely. Some will have maximum numbers and all follow our current school guidelines which encourage social-distancing, hand sanitisation and extra cleaning. Tennis Club will start next week and all of those children who had already signed up for Tennis Club will have a place. Unfortunately, Cookery Club will move to later in the term or year as this is not currently a COVID-safe activity. Those who booked a space last term will be guaranteed a space when it restarts.

Swimming

I was fortunate enough to have a tour today of Kettering swimming pool's new facilities in the centre of town. The manager walked me through the new changing rooms and new layout which allows for social-distancing and safe use by a school. The work is still ongoing and it's due to be ready for use at the end of September. We hope that swimming for Year 2 to Year 6 should start from 2nd October. We will confirm nearer the time. We have the sole use of the pool and changing facilities which is cleaned before our use. Work will continue at the pool until Christmas and I know that Kettering residents will appreciate the upgrades.

School Council

I firmly believe that School Councils are integral to a successful school. Children should have a voice, especially during strange times like these. Therefore, on Monday, I will be launching this year's School Council campaign. Each class will elect a representative and all children will have a forum to put forward their ideas and opinions. Older children will need to prepare a manifesto; this can be a poster or a short presentation. Younger children will be guided through a series of questions and a class discussion. We will then have an election where everyone will get a vote. This process is always exciting for the children and it also offers learning opportunities in supporting classmates, being humble in victory and gracious if not elected this year, the latter being a hard lesson to learn. Class teachers will support all of the children in the process and I look forward to sharing School Council news with you in future weeks.

Bon Retour Madame Vert

Today, we welcomed back Madame Vert and the children were thrilled to be speaking French again. The lessons weren't in their usual room and for some children French lessons seemed a long time ago but I saw beaming smiles across the school of children who had missed the language and Madame Vert. For some Reception children this was their first ever language lesson and it was tres bien.



Remain vigilant

Please remain vigilant during this difficult time. It's too easy to slip into old habits. We need to keep our children safe; you must remember to wear a mask when in school, socially-distance during drop-off and pick-up and you must not send your child into school if they, or a member of your household, feels unwell. If you aren't sure, please get in touch with the School Office. Alternatively, use this link which gives clear advice on when to self-isolate and how long for. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/>. We will also need to see evidence of a negative test result before returning to school. We're relying on our community to work together to keep Sunnylands and St Peters open. Kettering is currently an 'area of concern' and we want to keep our bubble secure. We're prepared to go back to Home Learning at short notice but, together, we can do our best to keep our children in school. We've had children tested this week (all negative!) and the process, although annoying, is painless and relatively fast. Thank you to everyone who is following the guidelines.

You must self-isolate immediately if:

- you have any symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)
- you've tested positive for coronavirus – this means you have coronavirus
- you live with someone who has symptoms or tested positive
- someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace
- you arrive in the UK from a country with a high coronavirus risk.

Baby Burrows

To finish this week, it's my pleasure to inform you that the Burrows family are expecting a new addition to their family in March. 2021 is going to be a really exciting year for them and we send them our best wishes on this wonderful news.

Regards,

Mr Thomas

Headteacher