

Colgate School Newsletter

July 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a year this has been. As we approach the Summer break, there is much to reflect on that we have achieved as a school community. As there have been so many changes to our usual school way of life, recent letters have been about those changes and we haven't had a newsletter for a while. Please do take some time to read through carefully as I have included information further down about how the school day will work from September. As a staff, we have discussed these timings and they allow us to maximise social distancing at our gates as best we can.

I have also included a link to the most recent parent guidance from the Department for Education which you may want to read. As ever, we are guided to the safest way to open the school which we have to risk assess based on our school's layout and access points. There will be differences for those children who haven't been back to school yet, but rest assured that those children who have been able to return have dealt with any changes brilliantly. We are all very proud of them.

Yesterday we interviewed for a new teacher for Oak class. We had a very strong field and a high number of applicants. We are very pleased to let you know that we are welcoming Miss Zamir to our staff. She is a newly qualified teacher who will be mentored throughout the year by Mrs Forrest. Miss Ross will also be supporting the class each day. It is always exciting to welcome a new member to the community and she will be with us next Wednesday afternoon (15th) when we'd like to invite her new class to meet her at a welcome picnic on the field. Mrs Forrest and Miss Wilson will send you further details but the picnic will be the same format as the others we've already had.

Following this is a thank you section which speaks for itself. This year has seen amazing efforts to make things work and there are some people that I must mention.

Finally, also attached to this email is a leaflet for parents and carers about talking about the Black Lives Matter movement. I have had several conversations with members of the school community recently about how we can support children and each other to understand the movements we're seeing around us. Our School Development Plan is starting a new cycle in January 2021. During the Autumn term, we are drafting our new objectives for the following three years. Raising the profile of equality and tackling discrimination will be part of the development plan. We will share the full plan with you all once it begins being drafted. As parents, please let me know if there are areas of development you would like us to consider for your children's learning and experience at Colgate.

This only leaves me to wish you a restful Summer break. Please be assured that the staff team are currently focusing all their skills on ensuring that the children receive the learning they need to close any gaps that may have arisen since the lockdown began. The Autumn term may look different in many ways but the team will be ready to greet the children back with care and support.

As ever, if you have any questions, please contact us via email or telephone.

Kind regards,
Mrs Winn

Dates for your calendars

End of term: Friday July 17th

September 3rd and 4th: INSET days

Term begins: Monday September 7th

Half term: 26th—30th October

INSET: Monday November 30th

End of term: Friday December 18th

Thank you

To my amazing teaching and support staff, for all the hours of thought and adaptations that you have brought to an ever changing table.

Throughout all of this, you have maintained high levels of learning and support from a distance for our children. Mr Clark, I hope you have an amazing journey to help other teachers in being their best. We will miss you very much.

Mrs Sanders and her team for keeping us all fed in a safe way. Meal times are such an important part of our days and you've kept the heart of the school day going.

Mrs Manning and Mr Gartell who look after our building so carefully. Mr Gartell even comes out at the weekend to rescue gazebos that have escaped!

The Governors chaired by Mrs Lawrence. You have met with us weekly throughout and supported me and the team to get things achieved as best we can with the guidance we're given.

Parents and Carers for becoming overnight teachers! Your supportive messages and patience whilst we figure out new systems and set ups is very much appreciated.

Children, we're so looking forward to having you all back. Seeing you at your picnics recently has been very special for us. You've tackled your home learning so well and we've loved seeing it.

Finally, Mrs Oakes. You have been alongside me daily throughout lockdown. It has been exhausting at times but I'm sure you will all agree that you get nothing but a positive response and a smile from her. We all need a Mrs Oakes to run things!

Drop off and pick up information for September

Morning start times

Apple class: 8.50 am Back gate, new Year R parents can come to the Apple covered area to drop off

Maple class: 8.40 am Side gate, parents queue up to the post box

Oak class: 8.40 am Double gate, parents/children queue past Apple tree cottages

Cedar class: 8.35am Dragon car park

Willow class: 8.35am Dragon car park

Miss Pagden and Miss Wilson will collect their children from the car park to walk them back to school for 8.40 am. If you have younger siblings to bring to school, please feel free to walk with the children.

Afternoon collection times

Apple class: 3.05 pm Back gate, same line up as the morning

Maple class: 3.10 pm Side gate, same line up as the morning

Oak class: 3.15 pm Double gate, same line up as the morning

Cedar class: 3.15 pm Back gate – children can walk independently up to Dragon or parents can wait to collect on the footpath

Willow class: 3.15 pm Back gate – children can walk independently up to Dragon or parents wait to collect on the field

We have tested these timings as best we can with sibling families, we will also be aware that it will take some time to settle to routine. We will put up signs to remind you where to be and at what time. We have had to give a set time for collection and pick up as guidance doesn't allow for a shortened day from September. Please be on time for these to avoid queues mixing and to allow us to lock the gates promptly.

Here is a link to the DfE guidance for parents regarding reopening schools from September.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>