



# Overton St Helen's Primary

## School family news



Issue 1



4.9.20

### WHAT A START!

What a fabulous start to the new school year it has been. It has been wonderful to see the school buzzing with excitement at all our pupils returning after a long time away. I am extremely proud of the children who have returned with smiles, eager to settle back to the school routine, listening well and following instructions.

The changes are going to take some time to get used to, but we have all made a great start so far. Thank you to all our parents who stuck to the staggered timings this morning—I very much appreciate your co-operation. We are aiming for a calm, steady flow of arrivals rather than all at the same time, and today it was perfect. Many, many thanks for helping us make this work.

And finally, a very warm welcome to all our Reception children and their families who became the newest members of our school family this week. We are very happy to have you join us.

### PE & FOREST SCHOOL KIT

We have been thinking carefully about how we are going to manage getting changed for PE, hence why we have not asked for any PE kits to be brought to school so far. For a number of reasons, we have made the decision to ask children to come to school in PE kit on the days when they will be having PE lessons. This will help us reduce movement in class. It will also overcome the problem of not having a separate space for our older boys and girls to be able to get changed in.

Indicated below are the days when each class will have PE. **On that day, please send your child to school in their PE kit, with their school jumper over the top and a pair of dark tracksuit bottoms or leggings on over their shorts. Children should come in trainers. If you have purchased pumps for indoor PE, these can be brought to school to be changed into on the day.**

Monday - HOLLY CLASS

Tuesday - ELM CLASS

Wednesday - OAK CLASS

Thursday - BEECH CLASS

Friday - WILLOW & MAPLE CLASS

When Forest School kit is needed, we will let you know the previous day via text message. Children will not need a full change of clothes—simply a pair of wellies, some over trousers and of course a good coat.

### READING BOOKS

Please could all parents check for any outstanding school reading books you may have at home and send back to school as soon as possible. Many thanks.

### CONTACT DETAILS

If the last few months has shown us anything, it is the importance of having correct email addresses and phone numbers on our records. Please could all our parents inform us asap if you have either changed your number or email address, as contact via these will be our main form of communication with you. If you think we do not have your email address on record, please call school to let us know. Whilst school was partially closed, email became the only way to get messages to everyone; we will be using email much more in the coming months. Thank you.

### MEET THE TEACHER EVENINGS

At the start of our school year, we would normally be hosting a 'meet the teacher' evening to give you a chance to see your child's new classroom and meet their teacher formally. Unfortunately, this cannot go ahead due to restrictions about gatherings on the school premises. Therefore, next Friday, the teachers will be sending out a class letter introducing themselves and giving you lots of details about class routines, themes and topics of learning, class expectations and much more. Please look out for these and read carefully.

### HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

At this time of year our Y6 families turn their attention to high school applications, which are proving harder this year due to a lack of opening evenings being offered. If you wish to seek our advice, we would be only too happy to talk through what we know—please just get in touch. For anyone considering Lancaster Grammar Schools, the new date of the 11+ test is Saturday 17th October; application for the test is via the schools' websites and the deadline is 7th September. For any high school you are considering, their website is always a good place to start.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

For obvious reasons, there is not a very long list of events coming up, but here are some important dates to be aware of:

Fri 25th Sep: Macmillan Cake Fundraiser  
(details to follow)

Fri 16th Oct: OAK CLASS ASSEMBLY via  
Facebook

Fri 23rd Oct: School ends for half-term break

Mon 2nd Nov: INSET DAY (school closed)

Tues 3rd Nov: School re-opens after the break

Fri 27th Nov: BEECH CLASS ASSEMBLY via  
Facebook



### NEWSLETTERS AND FACEBOOK

There are other small changes to inform you of. The school newsletter will come to you via email and also be available to read on our website at the end of each week.

Another change is to our Friday routine, when we would normally join together as a whole school to celebrate our achievements and share our work with each other. Due to restrictions at present, we cannot gather the whole school together, so we will be sharing fab work via our Facebook page. Happily, this now means you can see all our lovely work too.

### CHRISTIAN VALUES

We have had to think our way around many things we cannot do at the moment in school, one of these being collective worship which is so important to us at St Helen's. So for the first time this week, I led a whole school worship from the office via Zoom, with all the classes tuning in to see me on their interactive whiteboards. It was a definite first! I am pleased to say it went well, with no technical hitches so far!

The Christian Value being focused on for the first couple of weeks is 'Love'; God's love for us and the love we show to one another. We are encouraging the children to take care of and be kind to one another as we get used to being back in school.

### TEMPORARY LUNCH TIME WELFARE ASSISTANT VACANCY

Due to an increased number of sittings at lunchtimes, we are looking for someone who may be interested in a welfare assistant post. This will be an hour each day from 12.00 noon—1pm. It is initially for Autumn Term however may be extended should government guidance remain in place in the Spring Term. If anyone is interested, please give school a call.

### STARS OF THE WEEK

And finally, a very well done to Teddy in Holly Class, Lucas in Elm Class, Freddie in Willow Class, Archie in Beech Class and Lily-May in Oak Class who are our first 'Stars of the Week' of the new school year.

I have to add a huge well done to everyone in school this week, pupils, staff and parents, who have made our first week back a success.

Have a good weekend.

