

Welcome – Newsletter October 2020

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Autumn Term. Once again may I take this opportunity to thank all parents /carers, as well as the children, for the tremendous support that has been shown in helping everyone manage the safe return of your children to life at the Academy.

As I write to you, the Academy continues to be operating in an ever changing context, with rigorous monitoring being required and adaptations to practices being made as needs arise.

Your patience, support and understanding of the ways in which we are working is greatly appreciated.

Despite the challenges we are all facing, we are extremely proud of the achievements of your children during the past half term, not only in terms of academic progress but also in the way in which they have embraced and engaged with the new ways of working. They really have demonstrated extremely positive attitudes and great resilience, evident through their work and relationships with each other. So, we are very much looking forward to more excellent learning throughout the second half of the Autumn term.

Curriculum

As informed in my last newsletter, Autumn Term 1 has required some adaptation to the curriculum to enable teachers to identify areas of learning that were impacted upon due to children not having regular access to direct teaching. Staff have used baseline assessments as a tool to identify 'gaps' in learning and have provided opportunities for children to 'catch up' or revisit learning.

The Academy is committed to maximising 'catch up' opportunities for all children and from Autumn Term 2, additional teaching resources will be provided in all year groups to address specific needs in learning. In addition, from Autumn Term 2 our curriculum will be extended further to include a broader range of additional foundation subjects.

PE Reminders

After half Term, each class will continue to have a weekly PE session. To avoid issues relating to possible transmission of COVID-19 through changing clothes whilst in the Academy, we are requesting that children arrive wearing full PE kit on the designated day that they are having PE and then remain wearing their PE kit for the rest of the day. All pupils will continue to wear their Academy sweat shirts / jumpers on PE days.

Full PE kit, as stated in our brochure, is: school PE T-shirt , black or navy shorts, trainers, black/navy plain, jogging type trousers.

Please note other colours of jogging trousers, trousers with designer logos and hoodies are not acceptable. Children will still be required to bring in a pair of shoes on PE day in case trainers become damp during PE lessons.

Home Learning

The Academy is continuing to develop access to learning for children who may have to self - isolate, details of which can be found on our Academy website via the Home Learning tab. The learning accessible via the site matches the learning that is taking place in the classrooms and will help your child to keep 'up to date' with learning, should they have to remain at home.

We are currently working hard to develop further provision using Google Classrooms and look forward to letting you know more about the ways that this will further support home learning.

Celebrations



It is with great pride that I am informing you that, once again, staff and pupils from Ormiston Cliff Park Infant and Junior Academies were nominated and shortlisted for the prestigious OAT Annual Awards 2020.

Mrs Heidi Blaxell , who currently works as a Teaching Assistant in the Junior Academy received the award for OAT Enrichment Champion 2020. In addition, **Louis Havenga**, one of our Year 6 Pupils won the OAT award for 'Most improved Pupil'. We are incredibly proud of them both!

In addition , **Isla Cullingham**, one of our Year 6 pupils, was the Visual Arts Primary winner (picture above) in the National Summer Arts Competition.

Reminders

Coats - All children will require a coat for Autumn Term 2, our playgrounds are large and offer lots of opportunities for creative play, but they are quite exposed and can be chilly!

Safety of your children in KS1 - May we remind parents/carers in EYFS and KS1 that children should not be running ahead of parents / carers at arrival and departure times.

Snacks - Children in Years EYFS - 2 are continuing to be issued with a daily portion of fruit / veg. Children in Years 3 - 6 are welcome to bring in a healthy snack for break times e.g. piece of fruit, cereal bar, and sandwich. Sweets and chocolate bars, however are not permitted.

School lunches - From the week commencing 2nd November 2020, there will be an additional charge of 15p per packed lunch meal. Norse Catering has provided extensive details of reasons for the price increase, all of which relate to the impact of COVID-19, particularly the additional costs relating to disposable packaging.

Times of the Academy Day - The staggered times for the Academy day remain unchanged for Autumn Term 2. However, please may I remind you that children should not be arriving more than 2-3 minutes earlier than their set entry time. We are currently experiencing several numbers of children arriving 10- 15 minutes earlier than their entry time, which presents difficulties in the management of Bubbles and Social Distancing.

Wearing of masks whilst on site - We really appreciate the support that has been shown to our request for all adults to wear a face mask whilst on the academy site at all times, which includes the playgrounds. If you are exempt from wearing a mask it would be appreciated if you could ensure your exemption lanyard /badge is clearly visible. Alternative arrangements will be negotiated for pupils of parents who refuse to comply with our request. May I remind you that this request is to maximise the safety of pupils, staff, parents and wider families during these very difficult times.

Class emails and communication - Our class email is proving to be very supportive to parents and our pupils, however may I remind you that if you have any issues or concerns regarding whole academy systems or policies please can you contact the Academy office rather than using the class email.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 tests during Half Term - Please note the Academy Office email address will be accessible from 8.00am Friday 23rd to 8.00am Monday 26th October 2020 ONLY. This is to enable parents to inform the Academy of any confirmed COVID-19 cases. The Academy will then take the appropriate action in notifying parents and staff.

Key Dates for your Diary

Monday 9th November: Interfaith week

Wednesday 11th November: Armistice Day (poppies will be being sold in classrooms prior to the day)

Friday 13th November: Children in Need Day

Monday 16th November: Y6 PIXL assessments

Monday 16th November: Flu immunisation vaccine

Monday 23rd November: Y2, 3, 4, 5 PIXL assessments

Wednesday 2nd December: Y1 Vision screening check

Monday 14th December: Hobgoblin Theatre virtual pantomime performance

Friday 18th December: Final day of the Autumn term 2020