



HEALTHY SCHOOLS
LONDON



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22nd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of what can only be described as a life altering and challenging year where we observed human resilience and true community spirit despite suffering loss, separation and social limitations. The global pandemic had many devastating effects on society, the economy and wellbeing of communities at large; however, I would like to focus on all that we have gained through this challenging time. As a school community it brought us closer together, we displayed our school values in every aspect of school life, demonstrated by our children, staff and parents.

The kindness, support and appreciation shown by our parents towards each other, the school staff and children in general has been overwhelming. We thank you for working with the school and its staff in ensuring the best outcomes for all children, regardless of the difficulties we faced.

A huge thank you to all staff for their dedication, hard work and most importantly their flexibility in a time where we needed it most. You have been truly amazing and relentless in your pursuit of excellence in the face of challenges unknown before.

Our children - the heartbeat of our school – you have impressed all of us by your resilience; your ability to manage the many changes as a result of the pandemic and your dedication to your learning which resulted in very good progress despite the imposed lockdowns. You have inspired the adults so much and we are incredibly proud of all of you.

The end of the Summer Term is when we say goodbye to Year 6 as they leave us to start secondary school. We are extremely proud of every single one of them. They have been excellent role models for the younger pupils in school and we will miss them all but know they will be a credit to Rotherhithe Primary School and to their families as they start the next phase of their education. We know that they will go on to achieve great things in the future.

Staffing Update

We have been very fortunate to have stable staffing for the past two years. Inevitably, the end of the year does bring changes in staffing and we say farewell to:

Daniel Sullivan PE Coach

Aaliyah Walters – Year 6 teacher

Jasmin Ovington – Supply Teaching Assistant

Donatella Nardoza – Supply Teacher

Please join me in thanking them, on behalf of the whole school community, for their hard work and their commitment to our children and the school. We wish them well in all their future endeavours!



Attendance

Congratulations to all our pupils who have managed to achieve 100% attendance this year – a great achievement. Unfortunately, our attendance figures for this academic year have been disappointing and are below national expectations even though these figures exclude lockdown and isolations. There is a direct link between good attendance and attainment so we will have a focus on raising this next academic year. We ask that parents support these efforts by ensure that unless children are unwell, they are attend school.

Southwark's Summer of Food and Fun

Apologies for the late notice but, we've been informed by Southwark Local Authority that they will be using the school's allocation to fund meals for FSM pupils over the summer holiday. Although funded at £3 per pupil per day, as in previous holidays, **the summer offer is only available for those pupils entitled to benefits-related FSM** as at 23rd July 2021. For families who are not entitled to benefits-related FSM, please see the attached '**Family food resources for summer 2021.**'

The Summer of Food and Fun is running summer holiday programmes at over 30 centres in the borough for children up to age 16, including those with special educational needs. The programmes including free food, activities and "take and make" boxes for family cooking at home. www.southwark.gov.uk/foodandfun
The programme aims to support local families access free, healthy food and fun activities over school holidays in 2021. Each programme will provide:

free, nutritious and tasty food,

fun physical activity sessions,

a wide range of other enriching activities to suit different ages and personalities

opportunities to learn more about food and nutrition for children and their families.

The Summer of Food and Fun webpage www.southwark.gov.uk/foodandfun is now live.

New Class Groupings

As you are aware, pupil numbers in London Schools are falling and this has been particularly pronounced in Southwark. All schools, including Rotherhithe Primary School, have had to make some changes to reflect the falling roll and budgets constraints whilst still striving to ensure that everything they do is in the child's best interest and leads to good progress and outcomes for all. Many of you may have heard that the school has reorganised some class groupings for next year. This reorganisation will ~~impact~~ affect children going into year 3 and year 4 for September. These year groups will become mixed year groups. This means Instead of two Year 3 classes and two Year 4 classes, there will be three classes with a mix of Y3 and Y4 pupils. This decision was driven by pupil numbers and was dictated by changes to roll which took place at the end of this term. The decision to have a mixed year class was not taken lightly and all was done to ensure that we had everything in place before sharing the information with parents. We carefully looked at the needs of the children, the curriculum, the most qualified and skilled staff to take these classes. There are multiple benefits to mixed age teaching and we are confident that the children will continue to make excellent progress in whichever year group they are.

Travel

We know that some of our families are looking forward to traveling over the summer. Please see below the latest guidance issued by the DfE.

Before traveling, it is important to understand the risks in a country, including the latest COVID-19 restrictions (including for entry), follow the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Travel Advice. In order to prevent new COVID-19 variants from entering the UK, you should not travel to [red list countries](#). Please click on these links check what you need to do to [travel abroad and return to England](#), or read travel guidance for [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) or [Northern Ireland](#).



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Starting the New Year

The new academic year starts on the **2nd of September** for our pupils. The first week involves settling in, making new friends and learning the classroom rules. We tend to find that children who have missed the start of the term, struggle to settle so please return to school on the first day back!

Over the holidays, please try to read with your child every day. Children who do not read over the summer break can regress up to 6 months in their reading ability. We encourage you to visit the local libraries (if possible) and / or explore different genres and authors with your children using the online library at <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>.

Although restrictions have been lifted this week, we will undoubtedly receive national updates and advice by the DfE in relation to Covid -19 during the summer holidays. The senior leadership team will review the information and prepare for the safe return of all staff and pupils. We will update parents and communicate arrangements the week before the 2nd of September via email and our website.

We wish all our pupils' staff and children a fantastic summer break. Please enjoy reconnecting with friends and family while in all instances, keeping safe and healthy.

Kind regards,

Galiema Cloete
Executive Head Teacher

Lisa Christiansen
Head of School

