

Five Spires Academy Newsletter

Autumn 1 - 2020



A very warm welcome back

It is wonderful to write this Autumn newsletter welcoming all of our children back to school. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all our children, families and staff for helping to make this transition a successful one. I have been delighted to see the children's happy faces back in school and the enthusiasm with which they are throwing themselves back into school life and learning.

Attendance

Attendance has been very strong; despite the challenges the pandemic has given and continues to give us.

Face Coverings:

I have had a small number of enquiries recently regarding the use of face coverings for parents at drop off and collection times. Up until now, I have followed government advice which states:

Nationwide, the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally because a system of controls, applicable to all education environments, provides additional mitigating measures. Schools and colleges will have the discretion to require face coverings in indoor communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, if they believe that it is right in their particular circumstances.

Examples of where education leaders might decide to recommend the wearing of face coverings - for pupils, staff and visitors - in communal areas of the education setting include:

- *where the layout of the school or college estate makes it particularly difficult to maintain social distancing when staff and pupils are moving around the premises*
- *where on top of hygiene measures and the system of controls recommended in the full opening guidance to schools and FE colleges and providers, permitting the use of face coverings for staff, pupils or other visitors would provide additional confidence to parents to support a full return of children to school or college*

The one-way system and staggered drop off and collection times has done much to reduce the flow of people around the outside of the school building at key times; however, I am open to feedback on this and am keen to continue to support our community to the very best of my ability. **With this in mind, I will send out a parent questionnaire regarding the wearing of face coverings at drop off and collection time to see what the overall consensus is.**

Staff Vacancies

We currently have one vacancy for a mid-day supervisor in school. If you are interested, please contact the school office for further information.

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Thank You

A sincere thank you for following the guidelines around keeping children off school if they are showing symptoms. I know this is very disruptive and the lack of available testing is frustrating, however, it is important that we don't take risks, particularly when the virus is on the increase again.

School Events

It is very strange this year not to be able to undertake the usual array of events, parent workshops and 'Inspire' afternoons. Parents' evening will still take place over Teams – these will happen over the week commencing 9th November 2020. Details will be sent out inviting you to book slots nearer the time, so keep an eye out for this.

Year 2 Phonics Screening Check

Due to the cancellation of the phonics screening in June 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the current Year 2 class did not take the phonics assessment check in year 1.

The DfE have announced that in the academic year 2020/2021 Autumn term it is statutory for schools to administer a past version of the phonics screening check to these current year 2 pupils and return results to the LA.

Year 2 pupils who meet the expected standard in phonics in the autumn check will not be required to complete any further statutory assessments in phonics. Year 2 pupils who do not meet the expected standard in the autumn check will be expected to take the statutory check in June 2021, alongside year 1 pupils. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher.

Coronavirus

Understandably, there continues to be the concern about Coronavirus in the community, and its impact on families and schools. Please be reassured that we are working hard to keep all of our pupils and staff safe. We continue to review our Risk Management Plan with the Trust as well as continuing our safety measures in school. The children have been fabulous following the hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene measures, one-way systems and distancing measures - the staff could not be prouder of them.

Curriculum & 'Catch-Up'

Our children have embarked on their learning through their 'mini-missions' this term. We continue to offer a rich and broad curriculum to ensure that children receive the very best possible learning opportunities.

Teachers have used the start of term to establish where the children are at and 'what has to be learned'. This means that the learning is pitched to meet the needs of the children and gaps have been identified to ensure we can plan to address them.

Welcome back, Mrs Motorny

We are absolutely delighted to welcome Mrs Motorny back after her maternity leave. She will be re-joining the team after half term, and I know that she is very excited to be returning.



Dates for Your Diary

Autumn Term 2020-21

SEPTEMBER 2020

Tuesday 1st September: INSET

Wednesday 2nd September: Children return to school / Wrap Around Care restarts

Tuesday 29th September: Nursery & Reception Phased Transition

OCTOBER 2020

Monday 5th October: Flu Immunisation Team



Throughout October: Wednesday to Friday – Socially Distanced Open Evening Tours (after school)

October 2020: Black History Month

Monday 19th October – Phonics Parent Workshop – Nursery, Reception, Y1/2 (online)

Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October: HALF TERM HOLIDAY

NOVEMBER 2020

Monday 2nd November: Autumn 2 begins for all children

Throughout November: Wednesday to Friday – Socially Distanced Open Evening Tours (after school)

Week commencing Monday 9th November: parent consultations online

Monday 16th November: Anti-bullying week begins

Thursday 19th November: Y4 Parent Workshop (online) – Y4 Multiplication Test Information



DECEMBER 2020

Thursday 3rd December: Year 2 – Parent Workshop: What to expect for Y2 SATS Meeting (online)

Friday 18th December: Autumn Term ends for all pupils

Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January: CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Spring Term 2020-21

JANUARY 2021

Monday 4th January & Tuesday 6th January: INSET days

Wednesday 7th January 1 begins for all

Week Commencing Monday 8th February: parent consultations online

Friday 12th February: End of half term for all pupils

Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February: HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 22nd February: Spring 2 begins for all

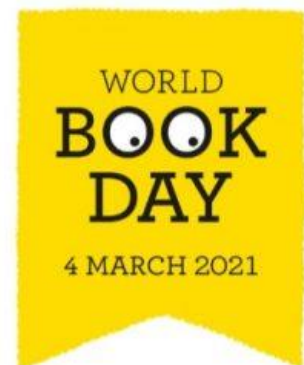
MARCH 2021

Thursday 4th March 2021: World Book Day

APRIL 2021

Thursday 1st April: Spring Term ends for all pupils

Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April: EASTER HOLIDAYS



Summer Term 2020-21

APRIL 2021

Monday 19th April: all children return to school

MAY 2021

Monday 3rd May: BANK HOLIDAY

Week Beginning 10th May 2021 – Year 6 SATS week nationally (no Y6 currently at Five Spires)

Friday 28th May: Summer 1 ends for all

Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June: HALF TERM

JUNE 2021

Monday 7th June: all children return to school

Monday 7th June: Year 1 Phonics Screening Check begins/Year 2 Phonics Screening Check Retakes,

Monday 7th June: Year 4 Multiplication check period begins (runs over 3 weeks) tbc

Week beginning Monday 28th June: School Sports Week

JULY 2021

Friday 9th July: Pupil reports sent out

Week beginning Monday 12th July: parent consultations (online)

Tuesday 20th July: school year ends for all children

Wednesday 21st July: INSET day

Meet the Team 2020-2021

Teaching Team

Headteacher: Diane Raftery

Deputy Headteacher/Inclusion Manager: Sharon Motorny

Nursery Teacher: Yvonne Hughes

Reception Teacher: Rebecca Preston

Year 1 Teacher: Mrs Kate Kipps (Maternity cover for Sally Jones)

Year 2 Teacher & EYFS/KS1 Phase Leader: Amy Graham

Year 3 Teacher: Shevaun Bentley

Year 4 Teacher: Rebecca Marfell

Year 5 Teacher: Charlotte Downie

Learning Mentor: Tracy Lisseter

Support Staff

Sarah Taylor

Cherrie Lockley

Rachel Tole

Samantha Chittim

Samantha Malkin

Charlotte Jones (Lunchtimes)

Laura Hale (Lunchtimes)



Sports & Music Staff

Joshua Howship

Megan Jones (Rock It Music Team)

Sammy Bullock (Rock It Music Team)

Natalie Gentles (Rock It Music Team)

Office & Site Team

School Business Manager: Maria Barnard

Office Administrator: Lisa Suttle

Site Manager: Ian Marsh

Catering Team (Chartwells)

Louise Lloyd- Smith

Charlotte Broome

Thank You PTFA!

As always, on behalf of everyone in school, a massive thank you to our PTFA who work tirelessly to support us. We have gratefully received so much support – notably the i-pads to support our children's learning (amongst many, many other things...). Thank you.



PTFA Newsletter – Autumn 2020

PTFA newsletter

Hello to everyone as we track rapidly through the first half of this new term. It has been an unusual time to say the least and we have missed so much since the start of lockdown.

At the beginning of March, we held our AGM and we saw a change in PTFA Committee members and positions. I want to say a huge thanks to Caroline Maskill, Heidi Woodley and Anna Bignell for all their hard work and support on the committee and a big welcome to Helen Hicks and Phillipa Burrows who have taken on the roles of Communication Secretary and Treasurer. Also, Hanh Hodgson has moved to take on the role of Secretary, with Gemma McKain and myself staying on as Vice Chair and Chair.

In March we managed to squeeze in the annual PTFA quiz night which was, as ever, a roaring success. Thank you to everyone who came to that and participated on the night. It was great to see a teachers' team this year led by our very own Mrs Raftery. We raised a total of £325.

We mentioned before that we were hoping to donate money to the school for much needed iPad resource. I am really pleased to report that the iPad are now in the classrooms ready for use across different aspects of the curriculum.

So, what now.... We have obviously missed a number of fundraising opportunities, the summer fair being the biggest one. It is looking highly unlikely that we can run our Christmas fair this year either. The school still needs our support from fundraising efforts so if anyone has any ideas about how we can raise money for the school, please get in touch with one of the PTFA Committee members.

Our next meeting will be held virtually over Zoom on Monday 12th Oct at 7:45pm. We do hope you can join us, in particularly our new parents, as we will share a short presentation about how you can be involved with the PTFA. The Zoom details will be shared closer to the date.

Please read on for further information regarding the PTFA and ways to raise funds.

Take care

Amanda

Chair, Five Spires PTFA



Fundraising

With your support, the PTFA have raised over **£15,000** since the school's opening and this has provided some incredible resources for our children. These include: Sports equipment, a table tennis table, iPads, a music trolley boasting a huge variety of instruments, history and RE artefacts, Read Write Inc. books and coding robots. It has also paid for author visits, teacher-led curriculum projects and our stage.

We are grateful for your support at the events we have held so far but with mass gatherings impractical in the current climate, we would love you to now support our school in other ways. There are 4 quick and easy ways you can do this and instructions for accessing each are listed below:

1) 'Easy Fundraising'

Available through the website using browsers Chrome, Safari, Firefox and Edge, as well as a mobile app, it sends donations to our school **at no extra expense to yourself**. Each time you shop online at one of the many qualifying retailers (which range from car insurance, to booking.com to clothing stores) the site donates to the school, even when purchasing sale items. After registering, download the 'donation reminder' widget and you'll never miss a donation opportunity. Easypeasy!

To sign up, please follow the referral link below and the PTFA can gain an additional £5 bonus donation per parent who signs up:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fivespiresptfa/?invite=8jvigd&referral-campaign=s2s>

2) 'Halloween Costumes'

Due to Covid and social distancing measures these will be available for sale through Facebook and the individual year group whatsapp groups this year

3) '100 Club'

100 Club is our very own lottery with proceeds split between the school and monthly prize winners. We still have plenty of numbers available. Please fill out the attached form if you wish to join.

4) 'Amazon Smile'

Amazon Smile is Amazon's charity sister-site. It works exactly the same way as the main site, but you specify a chosen charity and each time you make a purchase, Amazon donate a percentage of their profits to that cause, **at no extra expense to yourself**. By selecting 'Five Spires Academy Ptfa' you will be helping us to buy more resources for the school each time you shop.

Double whammy alert! If you shop on Amazon Smile and have Easy Fundraising set up on your device, you should get two donations for the school in one shop!

Joining the PTFA

When your child(ren) joined the school you automatically became a member of the PTFA, and all are welcome to sit in upon our meetings. [The next meeting will be from the comfort of your sofa, Monday 12th Oct 7.45pm via Zoom. Login details to follow.](#)

Please speak to the current PTFA Committee if you have any fundraising ideas or if you are interested in signing up as we are always on the lookout for extra members to bounce ideas around. By being on the PTFA committee you can help influence the future of the school and it takes as much or as little commitment as you wish to give.

We are a friendly bunch and can be found in: Helen Hicks (Nursery & Y1), Philippa Burrows (Reception), Hanh Hodgson (Reception & Y2), Amanda Jackson (Reception & Y4), Gemma McKain (Year2 & Year5)

Best wishes

PTFA x

