



PALACE WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

A busy (and long!) term continues!

The return to school has been very successful and we are incredibly grateful for all of the support that you have given to us.

The Autumn term always feels very long and this year is definitely no different. I am sure all of you are experiencing similar feelings at the moment. Not only has it been a challenge returning to school after the time away, but the additional restrictions and guidelines have meant that everybody is hyper-vigilant and so we are acutely aware that we need to look after your children, you and the staff, especially as we approach the end of term.

The children have been amazing in the way that they have returned. We have had to make some adaptations to the curriculum and the timetable, but the children continue to develop their working stamina and have produced some fantastic work and are certainly developing their learning.

You may remember, and have no doubt seen on the news, references to 'Catch up'. We know that children have missed out on some of school, but we are working hard with the children on meeting them where they are in their learning and making sure that we are teaching them as effectively as we can. We cannot go backwards but must look forwards to how we can support your children.

Parents Evening

We will be holding parents evenings this year, but, for reasons that are all too clear to us now, we will not be able to invite you into school for these this year. We are still working through the logistics of how we can manage this most effectively and efficiently. We will be sending out information before the end of term with further information.

COVID Guidance in school – reminders

As with all things, as we become more used to and comfortable with new guidance and routines, we tend to 'bend' the rules a little. Over the past week or so, I have started to see that some of our practices and routines need to be reinforced.

- When you are waiting to drop off and pick up your child, please make sure that you are keeping as much distance between you and others as you can (minimum 1m+)
- In the playground, please always follow the rule of 6, and keep groups at this number or below. This includes children of all ages.
- Please keep your children with you at all times when waiting before and after school.
- Please do not allow your children to use any of the play equipment.

Having heard from headteachers across the country, it is clear that the biggest risk of infection is still from adult to adult contact, followed by adult to child contact. Therefore, if we can continue to keep distances between separate households, we are more likely to be able to keep the community safe and avoid closing any of our bubbles.

Unfortunately, it does not appear that we will be returning to the old normal any time soon and so we need to make the very best of the new normal!

As testing is ongoing, it may be the case that you receive the outcome for your child's test at the weekend or 'after hours'. It is of the utmost importance that you inform us **AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE A POSITIVE RESULT**. If this happens, please email headteacher@palacewood.kent.sch.uk as we need to implement actions at the earliest opportunity.

Helping your child to learn – session 2

You have hopefully seen the parentmail from yesterday about the second of our sessions on helping your child to learn. They will be on Wednesday at 12:30 or 7:30. I will also record a session and share that too. We are really excited about how these sessions can help us to help you to help your children.

Virtual Sports Award

For the last four years Palace Wood was awarded the Gold School Games Award for commitment to sport. Last year we were working towards our Platinum Award. As the country went into a national lockdown in March, it was not possible to achieve this. However, I am delighted to say that we received both recognition of our work towards the Platinum Award up until lockdown and then the new Virtual Sports Award. The Virtual Sports Award was presented to Palace Wood for our work over lockdown which tried to keep children active and healthy. This included the much-loved Chatley challenges, our sports themed learning week and our virtual sports day. Well done to all of the children who took part in sport at Palace Wood last academic year. Although we are sad not to be able to attend competitions at the moment due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are looking at how we can enter some competitions, such as speed stacking and cross country, against other local schools virtually after half term. These will be done in school time within our bubbles and we will report on them in the newsletter. Miss Ridout



Staffing update

We wanted to let you know that Mrs Bovis will be leaving us for pastures new after half term. Since joining us, Mrs Bovis has been a stalwart in Early Years, helping children on the first part of their journey at Palace Wood. She has accepted a part-time position at a new school as she works towards a phased retirement. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Mrs Bovis for her wonderful service and wish her well for her new adventure.

And finally

I spoke recently with the children about being unique. We are all different and we all have special things about us that no one else has. Although we all have our imperfections (you only have to ask Arthur and he will tell you all of mine!), it is those imperfections that make us unique!

“Being the best is great, you're the number one. Being unique is greater, you're the only one.”

Dates for your Diary:

3 remaining INSET days: 23/10, 4/1, 7/6
Flu immunisation – whole school – 20/11

Parentmails (2 weeks):

All	Last Chance to Book (holiday club) October fun (“ “) Helping your Children Learn Part 2 – Retrieval The Friends of Palace Wood AGM & Amazon Smile Letter to All Parents
Yr6	Virtual Open Evenings: Cornwallis MGGS Oakwod Park Grammar Schol PESE Test Reminders Photo Day
Yr5	Cardboard



Superstar Corner

Kate in Rhinos won player of the match for her new team Kings Hills Hurricanes - she won it for saving a goal by a super header!