



# PALACE WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Welcome Back!

It was only when I looked back at the last newsletter that I wrote that I realised how long it has been! The last newsletter went out on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and I signed it off with *'We look forward to overcoming even more challenges in the new year, and will welcome the children back on Tuesday 5th January.'* Little did we know that the challenges we would face would be bigger than we could have imagined!

Despite this, Monday was a momentous day. Much had been made of the return to school and the media and political coverage had been so focused on the 8<sup>th</sup> March that there was little chance of it flying under the radar. I cannot thank all of you enough for making sure that you had familiarised yourselves with the guidance and advice we provided to ensure the return to school could happen safely. It shows the strength of the Palace Wood community that we were all able to make small sacrifices for the greater good.

The children have come back to school with an overwhelmingly positive attitude. Although we have understandably had to adjust some of our lessons, the children have fallen back into their learning and behaviour routines really well. We are focusing on re-establishing those positive routines and behaviours for learning whilst also having an understanding that the children have missed the social interactions that you can only really get from being in a school environment. In short – it's lovely to have everyone back, and to be doing what we all do best!

## School Uniform

We totally understand the challenges around school uniform at the moment. However, we would like you to continue to try over the coming weeks to work back towards the full school uniform. One thing in particular that the staff and I have seen this week is some very colourful PE kits, many with hoods and zips which can be dangerous. The other challenge which I know many of us are facing is hair – I've had to do a few 'coronacuts' myself! If your child's hair is longer than shoulder length, it needs to be tied back please, again, for safety reasons.

For information, the full uniform list is below and we hope that we can work towards this over the coming weeks:

- Navy cardigan/jumper
- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers/skirt/shorts/pinafore
- Black or grey tights, black, grey or white socks
- Black shoes (not trainers)
- Long hair must be tied back with small, discrete, navy or white accessories
- Plain small studs may be worn as long as children can remove them for PE. Children are not permitted to take part in PE lessons if wearing earrings.
- No other jewellery is permitted
- PE kit:
  - Black tracksuit trousers
  - Black sweatshirt (no hood/zip)
  - House coloured T-shirt
  - Black shorts
  - Trainers
- A school bag no bigger than 40cm
- All items should be clearly named.

### **Parent Consultations**

Normally – whatever that means anymore! – we would hold Parent Consultations at some point in this half term. However, considering the varied experiences that we have all had over the last three months, we have made the collective decision that we will postpone these until term 5. This will allow the children to settle back into their learning in school and also allow the teachers to build a better picture of the children's strengths and potential gaps so that you get the best and most useful information about your child, their attitudes, their behaviours and their attainment. I have discussed this with Mrs Cairns and she is in agreement that this is the best course of action.

If you want to talk to your child's teacher before then, we are able to facilitate this, but please contact them via email so that an appropriate time can be agreed

### **Inhalers/Epipens**

If your child has an inhaler or epipen and took it home over Christmas, please can you make sure that it is brought back in as we will need to have one in school.

### **Thank you from Breakfast and After School club**

Breakfast and After School club wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who donated equipment. It has meant that we can continue to improve our provision.

### **And finally**

Monday was International Women's Day (and yes, before you ask, there is an International Men's Day too!). I spoke to the children in assembly about the importance of this day – for example, only 6 of the top 100 British companies are led by women, and women, on average, earn 23% less than men. The theme for this year's International Women's Day is #ChooseToChallenge. This is a powerful message and one that we should share widely. We need to challenge the stereotypes attributed to men and women. We need to

challenge the inequality that we see. We need to make sure that opportunities are there for everyone equally.

So I am going to end by celebrating the people who have impacted on my life the most. They happen to be women. Professionally, my leadership hero is Mrs Priestley, my old Headteacher who also spent a year supporting Palace Wood. Personally, it's the Mrs Chatleys. First, my mum, a brilliant teacher in her own right who kept me on the straight and narrow and opened the world of teaching to me and has supported me (my dad has too, but has never quite got the teaching thing!). And second, my wife, who makes me a better person and is my absolute rock (and also a brilliant teacher!). She does all of this whilst also being an amazing mum.

How will you #ChooseToChallenge?

Mark Chatley

#### **Dates:**

7 <sup>th</sup> June	INSET day
19 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day – see below
2-16 April	Easter Holidays

#### **Letters sent home (parentmails)**

All	Easter Holiday Club
	Thank you
	'Have you had the jab' badges
	PE Days
	Returning loaded devices
	Red Nose Day

Peng's Entry arrangements

Mrs Moore

Yr1 Boxes needed

Yr2 Sewing kits

Lions Jars needed

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/palace-wood-primary-school-rednoseday21>



### **Superstar Corner**

Sammy from Zebras recently passed her yellow belt grading in Taekwondo