

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had good summer and some fun and relaxation with the family. It is such a pleasure to have the children back and a return to some normal school routines with the easing of restrictions. We are so pleased that we can now come together as a school community on a daily basis for our whole school assemblies and play together at break times. We will be re-introducing our playground ambassadors and encouraging older children to support the younger children with their play and lunchtime routines. The children are also now sitting on tables in groups as they were pre-covid which is much better for their learning and for teaching them. We will also be resuming our school and class council meetings where the children can share ideas about improvements and fundraising. We are looking forward to opening up to more community events with you as the guidance and our risk assessments allow.

The school is looking very clean and smart; thank you to New Hall School staff who have been painting areas of the school inside and out and carried out some maintenance for us over the holiday. The children are loving the green train!

Thank you for your patience with the car park arrangements. The morning routine is working much better. Please make sure you don't park up too early and that you leave the site promptly after picking up your child at the end of the day to allow for later year groups to park, as spaces are limited.

A warm welcome to our new reception children and their families who are joining us for their first session this week. We are all looking forward to a term full of exciting learning and happy community events.

Kindest regards and take care

Mrs Jackie Halliday

Headteacher

Meet the teacher

We will be holding 'Meet the teacher' sessions via zoom at 4.15 on the following dates.

Robins Miss Snodgrass: Thursday 16th

Kingfishers Mrs Southgate: Tuesday 14th

Owls Mrs England: Wednesday 15th

The teachers will talk through the year group expectations and how we can work together to support your child's learning. They will also be explaining the home learning, PE days and sharing ideas to support reading. Please try to attend these as this will also give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. The class teachers will be sending out a zoom invite next week. You will also be receiving a topic letter explain the key focus of the learning for the term.

Please contact them via their e mail address or via the school office if you have any questions or ideas.

How are we keeping safe?

As a school community we need to continue to remain cautious. There are control measures which schools are continuing to follow and these form part of our whole school covid risk assessment. Hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning routines and good ventilation continue to be in place. We are also restricting the numbers of visitors into the school and when they can be on site. In line with DFE advice, we have developed an outbreak management plan which we will share with you. This explains the measures the school may need to introduce (following guidance from PHE) in the event of several confirmed cases in the school community. The guidance about isolation and close contacts has also changed since the end of the summer term. Please see the attached information sheet for what to do in case of your child developing symptoms.

Curriculum

We are delighted that the expert sports coaches from New Hall School will once again be delivering PE sessions alongside the Messing staff and look forward to them starting with us on Thursday.

We are also planning to resume our swimming lessons at New Hall School and are liaising about arrangements for this. The class taking part in swimming this term will be Owls (Mrs England's class) Information to follow when we receive confirmation.

Before and after school Sports clubs with Premier Sport will resume Week beginning 13th September; Mrs Southgate will be sending out further details this week.

Essex Music Service have an excellent programme for schools. In the past whole classes have learnt the clarinet, ukulele and recorder. This term Kingfisher class will have a fun weekly session with a music teacher learning the ukulele and recorder (not at the same time!) Individual music lessons will also be starting and those of you that have signed up for these should have been contacted about these by the music service. We have been informed that these will beginning week beginning 20th and will send out further details.