**JUNE NEWSLETTER**

June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our June newsletter. These newsletters are sent out on a monthly basis to keep you informed about what is happening in school. **Importantly, this letter gives you details of our end of term events, and what we can and cannot do (according to the Covid risk assessment). Please read these carefully.** Hopefully, by September things will be much easier to arrange!

Please note events that are *underlined and in italics* are new since the previous newsletter.

**Thursday 17th June –** Redborne Schools Partnership – Intra-schools’ competition for Year 2

**Friday 18th June** – Year 4 Bikeability sessions

**Thursday 24th June** – New Intake Meeting for new FS 2021 parents, 6:30pm, 7pm and 7:30pm, *on the field*

**Tuesday 29th June – Sports Day** *(please see below for details)*

**Monday 5th July –** Curriculum, Learning and Standards Governors’ meeting, 6:30pm, Foundation Stage Visit by Herrings Green Farm

**Thursday 8th July –** Letters out re: new classes/teachers

**Friday 9th July –**  Reports home for all year groups, Class ‘swap’ day at Russell, ‘Meet the teacher’ sessions for New Intake 2021

**Thursday 15th July** - Year 4 Bubble Leavers’ Assemblies (*please see below for details*), *Ladybirds Sports Day on the field*

***Friday 16th July –*** *Y4 trip to Adventure Trip to Caldecotte Lake*

***Monday 19th July to Wednesday 21st July –*** *Full House Theatre workshops for every child*

***Tuesday 20th July –*** *Year 4 Leavers’ Party (please see below for more details)*

***Wednesday 21st July –*** *Last day of term*

***Summer holiday – Thursday 22nd July – 1st September 2021 – Premier Sport Holiday Club***

***Monday 6th September*** *– School begins again for Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4 children (INSET days for staff on 2/9 and 3/9)*

**Please see the school website for more dates beyond this**

**More detailed information on the above events will follow in due course**

**Covid update:**

You will be only too aware that the Prime Minister announced on Monday that the country will not be moving to Step 4 of the Roadmap as planned on 21st June. Sadly, this means we need to continue operating will all our existing Covid measures in place. I know you and the children will be as disappointed by this as we were. We were really hoping to be able to ‘open up’ a lot further from next week. Thank you for continuing to be vigilant with all our safety measures. It is keeping the vast majority of us in school at this difficult time and we really appreciate that.

Please find below a list with more details about some of the events in our calendar, and the safety measures we require for them to go ahead. **Please accept our apologies as we have had to move some events (to give us enough time to run ‘bubble’ versions) and, where parents can attend, we MUST limit this to one adult per child in order to comply with the current legal limits.** Thank you in advance for your support.

**End of term ‘events’ – when and how they will be run:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Date** | **Covid measures** | **Notes** |
| New Intake Meeting for new parents Sept 2021 | Thursday 24th June  6:30pm  7pm  7:30pm | Held outside  Staggered meetings  Restricted to one parent per child  Legal limit of 30 adhered to  Social distancing and hygiene in place  Only 6 at a time inside the classrooms  Wear a face covering at all times, if you are not exempt | Please adhere to the one parent per child policy. We will have to insist on this and turn away any additional adults |
| Sports Day | Tuesday 29th June  Foundation Stage 9:10 – 9:50am  Year 1  10 – 10:40am  Year 3  10:50 – 11:30  Year 4  11:40 – 12:20  Year 2  1:30 – 2:10pm | Held outside  Year groups at a time  Class bubbles stay separated  Restricted to one parent per child  Parents arrive via Queens Road entrance and leave via ‘field’ gate  Parents arrive ‘just in time’ and leave promptly  Legal limit of 30 adhered to  Social distancing and hygiene in place  Wear a face covering at all times, if you are not exempt  No refreshments  No uniform sale  Clean equipment between bubbles | Please adhere to the one parent per child policy. We will have to insist on this and turn away any additional adults  Please remain socially distanced from other parents and the children doing their sporting activities  Parents may take photos and videos for own use. Please do not post on social media/internet |
| Year 4 Transition Day to Middle Schools | Regrettably, these are unable to go ahead. Transition events where children ‘swap’ settings are not allowed under the restrictions. This will be done virtually (as it was last year) and with Alameda staff coming to do an ‘in person’ Q&A session with the children here. | | |
| New Intake ‘Stay and lunch’ sessions with pre-school settings | Regrettably, these are unable to go ahead. Transition events where children ‘swap’ settings are not allowed under the restrictions. Children will be offered ‘meet the teacher’ sessions on the field instead. These can be signed up for at the new intake meetings next week. | | |
| Class ‘swap’ day at Russell | Friday 9th July | Children will not move to their new classrooms to spend time with their new teachers, instead the new teacher will come to them in their existing classroom – this is much lower risk |  |
| Year 4 Leavers’ Assemblies | Thursday 15th July  9:10 – 9:55am – Starling Class Assembly  10:10 – 10:55 – Woodpecker Class Assembly  11:10 – 11:55 – Kingfisher Class Assembly | Held outside  Class groups one at a time  Class bubbles stay separated  Restricted to one parent per child  Parents arrive via Queens Road entrance and leave via ‘field’ gate  Parents arrive ‘just in time’ and leave promptly  Legal limit of 30 adhered to  Social distancing and hygiene in place  Wear a face covering at all times, if you are not exempt  Children handle their own leavers gifts – these won’t be handed to them  No hand shaking – just ‘elbow’ bumps! | Please adhere to the one parent per child policy. We will have to insist on this and turn away any additional adults  Parents may take photos and videos for own use. Please do not post on social media/internet |
| Year 4 Caldecotte Adventure Day | Friday 16th July  8am – 5:15pm | Stay in class bubbles all day  Covid risk assessment for all activities |  |
| Full House Theatre Workshops | Monday 19th – Wednesday 21st July (in school time) | Stay in class bubbles for all workshops  Covid risk assessment for all activities |  |
| Year 4 Leavers’ Party | Tuesday 20th July  Bubble Inflatable and games sessions:  11 – 12 noon  Woodpeckers  1 – 2pm  Starlings  2:15 – 3:15pm  Kingfisher | Class bubbles have their own session times on the field with inflatables  Social distancing and hygiene in place  Clean equipment between bubbles | Children may come to school in their own clothes (suitable for bouncing on inflatables!) |

**End of Year Reports**

Long ago, Russell committed to ensure all parents received full written reports regarding their children’s attainment and efforts this year. These will be coming home on Friday 9th July. Please forgive Mrs Bunney and I this year. Although we will have sampled and read many of the reports, we will be unable to individually comment on each report as we simply are overwhelmed with Covid-related work at this time. Thank you for your understanding.

**Plans for September**

As you can imagine, this year has been busier than any other year I have known, other than last year! Following two years of significant disruption to schools, we are all hoping for some stability from September onwards. In the July newsletter, I will update you with plans for September, but suffice to say for now, we plan get rid of staggered starts and finishes and go back to our ‘usual’ start and finish times which were (in case you can’t remember – we struggled!):

**Drop off** between 8:40am and 8:53 (registers at 8:55am prompt)

**Collect** at 3:30pm

Lots more details to follow in the July newsletter.

**Sustainability Day, Litter Pick on Saturday 11th June and George’s Day**

Thank you so much for all your support over the last few weeks. Even with high rates of Covid around and classes isolating, we managed to enjoy a super sustainability day (we now have tomatoes growing around school and our Eco code being actively pursued), a fabulously attended litter pick on a very warm Saturday last weekend: Ampthill Climate Change Group were very impressed with our fabulous parents and children! In addition, between us and other local schools, we raised a substantial sum to support George and his family in his pursuit of suitable treatments. Thank you all so much!

**New gym equipment**

Watch this space for even more pieces of gym equipment headed towards the KS2 trim trail area. Thank you to the PTA for supporting us with the funds to achieve, not only the new equipment, but also the astro turf surface to go underneath it. The children continue to love this equipment and benefit from increased lunch and break time activity as a result.

**Wheelbarrow Competition for schools:**

As you know, Russell entered the Wheelbarrow Competition in The Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth this year. It looked brilliant and we were immensely proud of the children’s achievements. Thank you to everyone who took the time to visit the gardens and to vote. We weren’t winners on this occasion, but we really enjoyed taking part! Thank you again for your support.

**Reminder from last newsletter - Parent Workshops:**

Would you like to know more about the following topics, and find out how you can help yourselves and children? Please see the leaflet (Parenting Insight) that went out with our May newsletter for how to sign up.

* Autism in Bedfordshire 24/6/21
* On-line risks and safety 15/7/21

**Reminder from last newsletter - Oak National Academy and remote learning/holiday learning:**

As you will remember from our previous remote learning, Oak National Academy (see hyperlink below) provides 10,000+ free, high-quality editable and adaptable lessons via their website, each featuring teacher-led videos to aid independent study across 35 subjects from early years foundation stage (EYFS) to key stage 4.

**Oak Academy Summer School**

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/summer-learning-support>

[Oak National Academy](https://www.thenational.academy/?utm_source=12%20May%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19) is extending its support to across summer 2021.

Oak’s Summer Classroom will provide resources and lessons for summer remote-learning, should you feel you need it at any time, or as ‘extra’.

Their summer learning support offer includes:

|  |
| --- |
| * core priority units and lessons identified to prepare pupils for the next academic year * newly designed unit quizzes as a formative tool to help identify gaps in knowledge * creative, active and mental health resources from a range of partner organisations, signposting pupils to vital wellbeing support * a full package of detailed guidance for parents and pupils |

**And finally:**

Thank you again for your patience and on-going support. It is really very much appreciated. Fingers crossed for a ‘quiet’ end to the academic year!

Many thanks and kind regards,

Nicki Walker

Headteacher