



PALACE WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome back

We are one week in to term 2 and already we have seen changes on a national scale!

As we all predicted, the winter months have caused a rise in the prevalence of the virus and so we have had to take additional steps to keep our community safe.

Although these were only implemented yesterday, I was blown away (although not surprised as you are so supportive!) at how you all took on our advice and guidance that we asked. We really appreciate all that you have done to support us and hope that these restrictions won't last forever.

We will be continuing to push your children in school as we are aware that there is a lot of curriculum to cover and we want your children to achieve as much as they can. You should be receiving this term's knowledge organisers this week. For those of you who were able to attend the Helping Your Child Learn sessions last term, we discussed how important these are and how you can use these to support your children in their learning.

Breakfast and After School Club

We are able to continue running Breakfast and After School club throughout the second national lockdown to provide childcare. The set up supports our class bubbles and so there is still no additional crossover. You can book on to the sessions using SchoolsBuddy.

Please can I remind you that the guidance sent out on Wednesday applies to accessing Breakfast and After School Club too. Please can you make sure that when you drop off and pick your children up from the club that you are wearing a mask to help protect our Wraparound staff.

Parent Consultation Evenings

As you know, especially in light of the new restrictions, Parent Consultations will be held remotely this year. As an attachment to this newsletter, you will receive our Information and Guidance about Parent Consultation Evenings. Please read this carefully and thoroughly to ensure that they run as smoothly as possible.

Starting school in September 2021?

If, like me, you (or someone you know) have a child due to start school in September, then don't forget that the registration window is now open. We are not holding tours or presentations in person, but you can see our virtual tour here -

<https://youtu.be/h81sZRVZPNc> - and you can see our presentation here -

<https://youtu.be/mrGgCzmrfPw>. All of the information is also on our website and you can find it all here -

<http://www.palacewoodschoools.org.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=116>

Did you know that data from last years' application process in Kent has shown that almost 50% of parents who did not apply for a school place by the closing date, already had a sibling at the school! If you have a child already with us, you do still need to apply through the normal route.

Book Amnesty

When we went into lockdown in March, we sent children home with a school reading book (or 2!). As part of the review of our curriculum, we are reorganising our books for the different year groups and we are a few missing! If you still have any school books at home, please could you bring them back in after half term? You can drop them in the drop boxes that are outside both Oaks and Acorns office. Thank you.

Helping your child to learn

Do you ever get that feeling where you think you should know something but can't quite remember it? Do you ever wonder why you remember the annoying theme song to an advert you haven't seen in years? Do you ever get wonder why your child can't remember something you know your child has done? These are all perfectly normal things to wonder, and there is a very good explanation for all of it! It's all to do with memory, and the good news is that when we know more about it, we can do more.

Last half term I held two sessions about memory. The first was about the memory itself, how it works, its limitations and its benefits. The second session was all about how we can improve and strengthen our memory through retrieving those memories and through spacing out our practice. We have invested heavily in this in school and were very keen for you to know and understand it. If you missed the sessions, or want a recap, I have popped the links below. As always, we are very happy to discuss any of this further with you.

Memory introduction -

<https://youtu.be/K1yVKBxEnAY>

Memory retrieval and strengthening -

<https://youtu.be/07r27sosjuE>

Remote Learning

Some of you were able to join Mrs Vincett's sessions yesterday about how to get the most out of our remote platform. This is in the case of larger isolations where we may need to close bubbles and move the learning to a more online approach. We would really recommend that you have a watch. Although we are continuing to review our measures to fight against closing any bubbles, we need to be prepared just in case!

If you missed it, you can catch it up here -

<https://youtu.be/IJFXP1qacts>

And finally

The world is a funny place. We are going into a second national lockdown, America are currently going through a challenge to democracy with the election and there is a real risk that we could get drawn into a negative spiral.

It's important to remember that there are always positives if we want to find them. They may not always be fully evident, but they are always there.

Why not try to think more explicitly about the positives over the next week. By writing them down, or sharing them openly with someone, you commit to them more and they can take on more meaning. Here are some things you could try:

- #threegoodthings – a hashtag on twitter where you find three good things in every day. Share with others and see what other people have been finding positive!
- Positivity jar – have one at home, write down the positives and pop them in the jar. When you need a pick me up, take one and read it to remind yourself.
- #lockdownsmiles – write down one thing every day that made you smile.

There are countless others you could choose from, but give one a go.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mark Chatley

Dates: 4th Jan & 7th June 2021 INSET days.

20th November – flu immunisation

13th November - Children in Need

17th November – Parents Evening

18th November – Parents Evening

19th November – Parents Evening

Letters sent home (parentmails)

All COVID-19 Updates

Return to School – Term 2

Microsoft Teams and Location Services

Children in Need

Friends' AGM x 2

Children playing musical instruments

Yr6 RSE

Yr3 Staffing

KS2 Virtual PE Event for Years 3, 4, 5, & 6

Pandas Photo Proofs (deadline to order is today)

Superstar Corner

Don't forget to send in your superstars to be included on the newsletter!