



## Cliddesden Primary School

### Headteacher's Newsletter 17 July 2020

Dear parents and members of the school community

The term is almost over and today we say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils. As I said in my letter last week, they have been a wonderful cohort and we wish them every success when they start their secondary schools. Today I had the pleasure of saying a few words to them about what a great cohort they have been, how well they have dealt with a difficult year and how I wish them well for what I know will be a successful future. I presented them with their graduation certificates and yearbooks. Reverend Stephen also joined me to add a few kind and thoughtful words.

This has been a very busy and taxing few weeks preparing for a full return in September. We have now published our risk assessment for the full reopening of school. It is available to view at <https://www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk/statutory-information/full-school-reopening-risk-assessment>

We have had to make several important and necessary changes to the school day and our routines to meet the required DfE (Department for Education) guidance and for the safety of children, staff and parents. Parents of children who are currently at school have adapted to the current changes but now that we are welcoming back every child there are further changes to make.

I have attached a document called '**Back to School**' which is a summary of the measures and a detailed explanation of the procedures for September 2020. **It is important that you read this carefully now, and again before 3<sup>rd</sup> September.**

For those of you who have been off school since March, I understand that you may be worried about your children returning to school. Although from March to May we had some key worker children in, they were in small numbers and the staff were on a rota. Before we had to return for the wider re-opening in June we all felt worried and anxious, as I know some of the parents of the children who are back did. But on return we have all followed the safety procedures and it has been delightful working with more children again.

If you or your child are anxious, now is the time to give me a call and I hope I can help ease the worry.

Next week we have transition sessions for all our children who will be in years 1 to 6 in September. We are running the sessions as we believe it will give the children a chance

(for many) to see the school again, their teachers and some of their classmates. It will help them prepare emotionally for September, especially for those who have not been in school since March. Although there is no obligation to attend we really hope all the children can. We can't wait to see them!

The teachers have written end of year reports for the children. They are shorter than normal with just a summary of their learning. Year 6 will take their reports home today and the other classes will be either collected at transition sessions or delivered next week. We will not be setting any work on line for next week but over the summer we recommend the children continue reading.

Hampshire Library Service are running a summer reading challenge over the holiday. I have attached the flyer with details. Unfortunately, HCC did not receive enough challenge packs, comprising a poster and stickers, to distribute to all schools as they hoped so we cannot send these to you.

There is an online version where individual log ins can be created. This is accessed at the same website: [WWW.SILLYSQUAD.ORG.UK](http://WWW.SILLYSQUAD.ORG.UK)

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/HIAS/Silly-Squad-corepackguide.pdf>

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/HIAS/Silly-Squad-characterguide.pdf>

Children taking part in the Challenge online will unlock activities and virtual reward badges as they work towards completing their personal reading goal. Children can sign up for a website profile which will allow them to rate and review their Challenge reads, collect rewards and access all areas of the site. The website will also host downloadable activity sheets, creative challenges, polls, videos and competitions to enjoy over the summer, all inspired by the Silly Squad and their favourite books.

If you pass by over the summer you will see scaffolding around the school and a builders' hut opposite the field. We are finally having necessary work done on the outside of the building including replacing rotten wood and giving frames a lick of paint.

Our INSET days for the next academic year are:

Monday 28 September 2020 (Safeguarding and Health and Safety training booked for staff)  
Friday 23 October 2021  
Monday 4 January 2021  
Thursday 1 April 2021  
Friday 2 July 2021

We will send out the term dates, with INSET days included, next week.

I would like to thank all my staff for their hard work, resilience and dedication to the school since lockdown began. For the work they planned during term time and over Easter, for coming into school for the children of key workers, for spending the half term break preparing their classrooms for the wider re-opening in June, and of course for being back and doing a brilliant job since then. They truly deserve a break both physically, mentally and emotionally. I would like to give a special mention to Mr Sumner. As Caretaker, he has been fully involved in all aspects of planning for a safe school and has been on site most week days since March.

I hope you all have a restful summer. There will be many new challenges in September for us all and especially for those who have missed so much schooling. From speaking to you all I know you have been brilliant substitute teachers since March, despite it being a far from easy task while juggling your own jobs and routines. Thank you.

We are all aware that we are still living in a time of a pandemic and need to work together as a community for our own and each other's welfare. Please have fun over the holidays but take care, follow the 'stay alert' guidelines for keeping safe and please don't take risks.

Have a lovely summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September

***Kenneth Davies***  
***Headteacher***