



## HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2021

### A REALLY WELCOME RETURN

The children have made a fantastic start to their new school year. This not only includes the vast majority of children putting in a huge amount of effort with their learning but also a number of children who really seem to have taken it as an opportunity to turn over a new leaf. Well done to all the children and to all the staff for setting the tone for the year. A special well done to our Foundation Stage children on such a good start to their time at Parkwood.



### WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

For the first time in 19 months, we had a whole school assembly. I felt quite emotional seeing all the children sat so well in front of me, after such a long time. Large assemblies remain outside for the time being and the children sat in the shade of an oak tree, out on the field. It was great to get these back up and running and well done to the children who were nominated by their teachers for a bronze badge for having an exceptional start to the term.

### START AND END OF THE DAY

We appreciate that it is not to everyone's taste, but the start and the end of the school day and the new school timings are meeting the most important aim we had for them. Every child, Infant age and Junior, being delivered to their teacher at the start of the day and safely given back by the teacher at the end of the day. It is great having a more open system and we will review how we can continue to improve this as the year progresses. Not every class will always get every timing right and parents will always run late from time to time, but I am sure that once we are all used to it, it will be efficient and positive, we are all in it together and will iron out any problems together.



### GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE - COVID

We all hope that this year, Covid will not feature too prominently in the way we approach school life. The school is following the government guidance, which is significantly different to before the summer (this is easy to find online) as well as a school risk assessment that is reasonable and fair. We have had a number of cases in the school, involving staff and children and we wish them a speedy recovery. The new guidance and risk assessment should mean far less disruption to learning, which is great. In the event the guidance changes or the school's individual circumstances become more challenging, we will react appropriately and keep parents fully informed of any necessary action.

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND THE CURRICULUM

Our staff development days at the start of the month were largely focused on making sure that we are getting the school curriculum and the school improvement plan as focused and ambitious as possible. It is important that we share as much information of what the children are doing in school as possible. This will be done in lots of ways. Via the school website, directly in letters and as the year progresses, in events for parents which focus on the learning in the school. We are all really excited by the direction we are going in and look forward to regularly updating parents, online and in person.

### CONGRATULATIONS MISS PARSONS

A massive congratulations to Miss Parsons on the birth of her twin boys, Alexander and Harrison. We wish Miss Parsons, Mr Stubbs, the boys and the wider family, all our very best as they enjoy this really special time.

### PARENT GOVERNOR

The School needs a parent governor. Either myself, the Chair of Governors, or both, would be happy to discuss what this involves with any individual and the Governing body is a welcoming and very committed group of people who really want the best for the school. If you would be interested in discussing this, please contact the school to arrange an appointment.

### MEDWAY TESTS

Next week, many Year 6 pupils will be taking the Medway Test. We are proud of all our Year 6 pupils and regardless if they are taking the test or not, we know you will achieve great things in life. For those who are taking it, all the very best, all you can do is try your hardest and we know you will.

### PLATINUM JUBILEE

As a result of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, all schools have been asked by the Government to adjust their term dates to incorporate one fewer contact day. This can be any day of the school's choice during the year. Therefore we will now be finishing the school year on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July not Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July.



### WEDDING BELLS AND NAMES TO REMEMBER

After a summer of marriages and celebrations, I'd like to congratulate our members of staff who tied the knot. For Parents information, Miss Edgley is now Mrs Edgley-Pearce, Mrs Knowles is now Mrs Quinn and Mrs H Watson is now Mrs Costall.

### NUTS AND WATER

A polite reminder to parents that due to allergies in the school we are a 'nut free school' and also to remind parents that children should bring in water to drink during the day and refill when needed, not squash or juice.



If this raises any issues, please speak to your child's class teacher.

### POLITE IS RIGHT!

We have been really pleased with how many children are showing such excellent levels of politeness since their return. Lots of pleases and thank yous and holding the doors and being patient. Year 6 are leading from the front with this and setting a great example. We will continue to work on table manners in the dining hall and know that this something that will be encouraged at home as well.

### SHOE-TURN

Having done a U-turn over 'school shoe trainers', which have proved to be very useful during lockdown as footwear, can I remind parents that 'school shoe trainers' are completely acceptable, but must be black with a black logo. When replacing current footwear, please replace in this way.

Traditional black school shoes do, of course, remain totally welcome and acceptable.



Once again, thank you for your support at the start of another exciting school year and we very much look forward to working with you going forward.



**OUR FIRST WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY**

**Mr A Moir**  
**Headteacher**

**DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Foundation Stage – Children in for lunch this week. Home at 1.00pm
14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Medway Tests – Year 6
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Medway Tests – Year 6
20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Foundation Stage – Children in full time
28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Isle of Wight Talk – Year 6
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Height & Weight – Year 6
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Last Day of Term 1