



Clandon School Newsletter

Dear Families,

It is so lovely to finally be able to say welcome back one and all, to a new term and a new academic year at Clandon. The world has changed dramatically since the end of March, but we continue at school with the same aims and objectives, albeit in different circumstances. We want children to have a wonderful, playful, creative, and broad education and to enjoy each day at school. After seeing the children so delighted to be back at school, I am more confident than ever that we can deliver the education all children deserve.

I would like to thank you all for working with us through lockdown, our partial return and now, our full return. We are responding to very frequent changes in guidance and this means we do not always have all the answers; something that works one week, might not work the next. I understand this is frustrating, but our main aim is to keep children, staff and our community safe.

Friendly reminders:

Lunches: We have made the decision to have lunches cooked and delivered by our catering company. This is because they are working from a covid safe kitchen and have to meet rigorous health and safety regulations. The same cannot be said of an array of lunchboxes coming from home; we do not have space to store these, we cannot guarantee that they are clean and have little control over their content. Apart from the risk of coronavirus there are many children with food allergies, and we must ensure our school is a safe place for everyone. I have also noticed that when everyone is eating the same meal there is far less temptation to share food; someone else's packed lunch often looks very appetising and we obviously need to avoid this!

I do understand that this is causing some families distress. If your child has exceptional circumstances which require them to bring a packed lunch, then please email me and we can make an alternative arrangement.

Drop off and collection: We are utilising as many entrances as we can to ensure you can maintain social distancing and that children are in bubbles as soon as possible. If you need to get to different entrances, we will understand that it might take a few extra minutes to make your way from one to the other; please don't worry. However, if you are late because you have not been able to get to the school site on time this is a different issue; once the gates are closed then we cannot admit your child. **Please remember that only one parent/carer should be attending drop off or collection.**

Staff Car Park: There are already several parents using the staff car park in the morning and after school. This is not acceptable. I am aware that some parents believe they have special permission to use the car park. I will need to review these permissions in light of the pandemic. If you feel you have exceptional circumstances that mean you cannot walk from Clandon Park, please email me.

Reading Books and Communication:

As a result of the pandemic we will not be able to send reading books in the usual way. This is because all books will have to be quarantined for 72 hours when they are returned to school. To accommodate this measure, we will send a selection of reading books home each Friday. These will be handed back to school on the following Wednesday to be quarantined. When teachers read with children they will not be using the same books that the children are taking home, this means you will only need to send reading books on a Wednesday.

Teachers will not be able to handle reading record books during the pandemic so if you need to communicate with the teacher for any reason please email them directly. Teachers will read and

respond to emails after school and before 5pm. They will not be available to respond to emails at the weekend or during the school holiday.

Forest School:

I am thrilled to confirm that Forest School will start locally next week, we will be using the school grounds for our first session. From the week beginning 14th September we will be heading to our new Wilderness site which is part of Clandon Park. Our new Forest School leader is Becky Johnston, who is both a qualified teacher and a qualified Forest School Practitioner; I know she is going to be an absolute asset to our team!

There will be lots of information coming to you next week about Forest School, including a consent form for your child to access the Wilderness Site. Please look out for these forms because without your consent your child will not be able to take part.

In the meantime, please send your child to school in Forest School clothing on their allotted Forest School day, from next week. It is safer and easier for children not to be changing clothes and bringing in additional kit during the pandemic. Forest School kit would ideally be a long-sleeved tee-shirt and jumper, long trousers, welly boots and a warm, waterproof coat. If you are struggling to find these items at home, just let me know, we can provide you with a set for your child's use.

Forest School Timetable:	Monday	Kestrels
	Tuesday	Squirrels
	Wednesday	Rabbits
	Friday	Badgers

PE Sessions: PE sessions will work in the same way as Forest School in that your child should come to school in their kit on their allocated PE day, as follows:	Monday	Rabbits
	Wednesday	Badgers
	Thursday	Kestrels
	Friday	Squirrels

A warm welcome to our new staff:

Our Clandon family is growing and it's safe to say we have aced recruitment for this year! All our new faces are wonderful and have fitted right in! As a reminder we have welcomed the following new staff this year:

Mrs Fincken	Teaching Assistant in Kestrels
Miss Reynolds	Squirrels teacher on Fridays
Mrs Cramp	Learning Support Assistant (1:1)
Mrs Wood	Learning Support Assistant (1:1)
Mrs Sun	Teaching Assistant in Rabbits
Mrs Brooks	Nurture Room Practitioner
Mrs Johnston	Forest School Leader

We are currently recruiting further Learning Support Assistants as we achieve more EHCPs for children. When we meet the needs of children with specific difficulties all children benefit.

I appreciate that this new way of working is going to take some getting used to, but my overwhelming feeling this week has been one of relief. The children are back, and school feels just right! It is true that there is so much more to a school than its buildings - your children have brought our school back to life this week and I could not be happier. 😊

Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes

Vicky Voller