



Newlands C of E School Federation



Newsletter No. 4 - 18th June 2021

Dear Families

Welcome back to you all and we hope that half term gave you the break you all needed.

It has been another strange year for us all and the recent news that COVID restrictions will still be in place for the next month in England will no doubt have impacts on some of the things you had planned.

Fingers crossed for some positive news for when the summer holidays arrive.

School Closure

As you will be aware, we have had to close Shere Infant School and Fox Cubs Nursery this week for 10 days due to a positive COVID test within the school. We are acutely aware of the inconvenience, distress and upset this has caused and we are deeply sorry for this. No one wants to close a school and it was consulted on fully and discussed at length on Sunday.

We have been open since the beginning of COVID restrictions. Back in March last year, you will recall, we transferred over to Shere to provide cover for our vulnerable and key worker children from both schools. We then reverted to individual schools in June, having converted our schools to work within the 'bubble' guidelines. We have worked hard to ensure everyone is kept safe and have had only one bubble closure in that time and the measures in place ensured there were no further cases.

We have reviewed our Risk Assessments again this week in light of the positive test and made changes where appropriate and consulted all the while with the DfE and Surrey County Council. We hope this reassures you that we have always taken and still take the health and safety of our school communities extremely seriously.

You can continue to help us by ensuring you wear your masks at pick up and drop off times and follow social distancing guidance.

We would like to thank all the staff for their hard work in quickly turning things around again to teach online and preparing work to do at home.

Forest School Clothing Reminder

Guidelines around the wearing of long sleeves and long trouser legs is clear and necessary and we understand that in hot weather it feels counter-intuitive to do it. However, all the evidence and Forest School guidelines are clear about it helping to reduce the likelihood of getting a tick (or indeed be stung by nettles etc). Once in the forest it is a lot cooler and Mrs Williamson seeks out the shade.

Key Dates

INSET day	Fri 25 th June
INSET day	Mon 28 th June
Shere Move-up Day	Wed 30 th June
Clandon Move-up Day	Thurs 1 st July
Last day of term	Wed 21 st July
1 st day of summer term	Fri 2 nd July

Ticks are always present, and it would be remiss of us not to take precautions and alert you all to this. You and your family can pick ticks from your gardens, your pets, in the park etc. Surrey is a high risk area.

Mrs Williamson has shared links with you to products and companies that provide tick repellent (<https://botanicprotect.co.uk>) – some of these are natural products and may be suitable for sensitive skin. We have said that children may bring a change of clothing to wear when they are not at Forest School, if they so wish, if it is hot. So, the advice continues to be:

- Wear long sleeves and long trousers – these can be lightweight
- Bring your water bottle
- Have sunscreen applied before you come to school
- Wear a sunhat
- If you so wish, apply tick preventer before coming to school
- Check your family regularly for ticks



Thank you for supporting us with this. If you need any more advice, please contact us.

End of year trips and events

We have been thinking about this very carefully for a while and referring to Government and County Council guidelines. With the recent news that COVID restrictions will still be in place in July and the update from Surrey about rising case numbers in our area, this confirms for us that for both schools to go on an end of year trip and to open up the schools to all the parents for events, does not feel right and would contravene current regulations. So, it is with this in mind that we will not be holding open Sports Days this year or taking the children on a trip. Instead we will hold the sports day/afternoons in school, but without parent/carer visitors. We will also hold our end of term church services in school, rather like the assemblies we are currently doing at both settings.

Move-Up Days

This is always a term filled with fun, anticipation and tinged with a little sadness when our school leavers come to move on to their new schools – our Year 2s at Shere and our Year 6s at Clandon.

For our children transitioning within the same school, we are hoping to hold an outdoor session on Wednesday 30th June for Shere and Thursday 1st July for Clandon, if we feel that social distancing can be maintained and the risks kept low. If we do not feel this can happen, we are confident that, in our small schools, our children know all the staff and we will ensure transition activities take place at the beginning of the next academic year.

New Year R Visits

Again, due to the current guidance we will need to hold our move up days in a slightly different way. We will contact the new entrants' parents with updated information.

Clandon PTFA Information

The PTFA have been working hard in the background to come up with fun ideas to fund raise for our lovely school. Thank you to them for all their hard work. Here are a few dates for your diaries. Please be aware that all events are subject to the ever-changing COVID guidance:

Thursday 24th June – whole school Cake Sale.
Friday 9th July – Mufti Disco Day
Wednesday 21st July – Ice Cream van on site!

Anyone who wishes to donate cakes or biscuits either homemade or shop bought for the cake sale please bring to the Woodland gate the morning of Thursday 24th June.

Please remember: list the ingredients, allergy info & NO NUTS.

Children will need to have their money in school on 24th June as they will be buying cakes in their bubbles before 3pm school collection. Alternatively, parents can prepay cash into a named envelope in the PTFA post-box or via PayPal,

clandonprimaryschoolptfa@gmail.com

Many thanks PTFA

Shere PSC Information

This will be sent out to Shere parents separately as there are quite a few dates and lots of information as there are to be some structural changes. Thank you to all involved for their hard work.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Emma Toone and Yvette Webb