



Newsletter - Tuesday 3 September 2019

Headteacher's message

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our children and families back to school at the start of the new school year. Firstly, I would like to say how incredibly proud I was of all children as they entered their new classes this morning under difficult circumstances following the death of our pupil Lucas Dobson during the summer holidays.



The children all sat perfectly in assembly this morning as we paid our respects to Lucas. I talked to the children about what has happened and how the news of Lucas' death may have made us feel. We lit a candle for Lucas and said a prayer before having a time of silent reflection. We also sang one of Lucas' favourite songs - 'Shotgun' by George Ezra - which the children very much enjoyed.

The Children then returned to their classes and spent some time with their new teachers and TAs to ask questions and share memories of Lucas. Children and staff have all been amazing in providing support, strength and comfort to one another.

Children from Year 2 spent some time this morning writing special messages for Lucas and have attached these to ribbons on the school gates. We are deeply thankful to Mrs Baxter for providing these for both classes. They look beautiful.

I have had confirmation that Lucas' funeral will take place at St George's Church in Deal at 12:30pm on Friday 13 September. School will be open as normal on that day, however any parents who wish to collect their children to take them to the funeral are of course very welcome to do so. We respectfully ask that any parents who are planning to take their children to the funeral let the office know as soon as possible so that we can let the teachers know who will and will not be in school.

The family have informed us that flowers are welcome or donations may be made to the awareness campaign to improve river safety or any of the unpaid emergency services who supported and led the search for Lucas. The school are happy to accept donations on your behalf and will pass these on to the family in due course.

We are, however, still greatly looking forward to the year ahead and excited about the learning opportunities that are planned. On behalf of all of the staff and children I thank you for your support and look forward to working with you across the new school year.

Best wishes, Mr Hackett

Road Crossing Patrol

We are delighted to announce that Kent Highways have now filled the road crossing patrol vacancy at the London Road Entrance to the school. Mr George Pearce (ex caretaker at Warden House) has kindly agreed to take on this vital role. We look forward to welcoming him back to our school community as he takes up this new position in the next few weeks.



Summer Improvement Works

The estate staff have been extremely busy over the holidays. Thanks especially to Mr Orchard who has worked tirelessly to improve our school site with lots of exciting changes to announce. We are delighted with our new canopy installed across our Year 1 and 2 classrooms. A new canopy has also been fitted across the outside of Elephants Classroom in Year 6. A new storage shed (complete with serving hatch) has been purchased for our PTFA; the corridor area outside Year 5 has been painted and our new nurture classroom is coming along very nicely.



Key Dates for Terms 1 and 2

Tuesdays - Year 3 - Swimming

Thursdays - Year 5 - Swimming

Thursday 12 September
 Year 6 - Kent Test

Wednesday 9 October
 Individual School Photographs

Tuesday 15 & Thursday 16 October
 Parents Evenings

Friday 18 October
 Olympic Day

Friday 29 November
 'Mother Goose' at The Marlowe Theatre

Term Dates for 2019 - 2020

Term 1 Start: Tuesday 3 September 2019
 Finish: Friday 18 October 2019

Half term break:

Monday 21 October – Friday 25 October

Term 2 Start: Monday 28 October 2019
 Finish: Wednesday 18 December 2019 at 2pm

Christmas Holiday:

Thursday 19 December 2019 – Friday 3rd January 2020

Term 3 Start: Monday 6 January 2020
 Finish: Friday 14 February 2020

February Half Term Holiday:

Monday 17 February 2020 – Friday 21 February 2020

Term 4 Start: Monday 24 April 2020
 Finish: Friday 3 April 2020 at 2pm

Easter Holiday:

Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April 2020

Term 5 Start: Monday 20 April 2020
 Finish: Friday 22 May 2020

Bank Holiday Friday 8 May 2020

May Half Term Holiday:

Tuesday 26 May – Friday 29 May Term 6
 (Incorporating Bank Holiday: Monday 25 May 2020)

Term 6 Start: Monday 1 June 2020
 Finish: Wednesday 22 July 2020 at 2pm

Teacher Training Days

Monday 2 September 2019
 Friday 6 December 2019
 Monday 20 July 2020
 Tuesday 21 July 2020
 Wednesday 22 July 2020

A printable more detailed copy of these dates is available published [on the school website](#).