

## **Newsletter**

**April 2019**

Welcome to the summer term – it is going to be very busy as always and hopefully full of fun and learning!

It is with regret that we have to announce that Mrs Hall has decided she is ready for a new challenge in her teaching career and will be leaving Holgate. She would like to thank all the pupils, staff, parents and families that have made the last sixteen years so special and she will be taking so many fond memories with her.

Mrs Jenna will continue her role in school as our Year 1 teacher.

### **Building extension news**

As you know, we have been approached by the Local Authority regarding increasing our intake numbers and extending the school. Demand for school places is very high in Orrell and because of continued housing development is set to increase. At first, it was anticipated by the Local Authority that the increase in number/demand in the area would be for September 2019. This current year is actually a lower birth rate year for the area and so our intake for September 2019 will remain at 30.

Building work will commence as soon as we break up in July 2019 so that the internal modifications can take place in the summer break. External work will also start at this time and continue until April 2020.

Our intake will increase to 45 in September 2020 for our Reception Class. The 45 pupils will have 2 teachers as well as teaching assistants and operate as two smaller classes in one very large early Reception class unit. The unit will be built on the current back car park. Because class sizes shouldn't be more than 30, we will be increasing our number of teaching staff gradually over the next few years as well as the number of classrooms. We will also benefit from an additional hall and much improved facilities on the field and playground.

Plans are still being approved/modified so as soon as we receive the final copies, I can share the information with you.

### **Statutory Tests**

As always, if you have any worries or concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher. If you would like to see the kinds of activities children will be doing during this period, staff are happy to show you past papers. We don't panic at times like this or place children under strain because we know our children get a great education. Our excellent outcomes are well above other schools nationally and this is because of the consistent work that takes place all year.

### **Key Stage 2 SATs (Year 6)**

The tests start the week beginning the 13<sup>th</sup> May. Tests take place Monday to Thursday in the morning. English grammar, punctuation and spelling on Monday; Reading on Tuesday; arithmetic and mathematical reasoning 1 on Wednesday (this is the hardest day) and mathematical reasoning 2 on Thursday. The tests feel different to usual class work as they are timed and feel quite formal. We do lots of physical activity during the week to help release the build-up of any pressure. It is a tiring week, therefore we would respectfully suggest that pupils do not practice past papers on the evenings during the week or have late nights, as they need to be mentally alert the next morning.

There is a free (and optional) breakfast club in the Year 6 classroom Monday to Thursday before school from 8.30am where we serve bagels, crumpets, toast, fruit and good quality cereal bars. Pupils can also bring their own breakfast if they prefer. Y6 pupils can attend if they wish and enjoy some time socialising together before the morning starts.

### **Key Stage 1 Tests (Year 2)**

The 'tests' take place during the weeks beginning 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May. Pupils complete the activities in large groups in a quiet room and it shouldn't feel very different to other lessons.

### **Year 1 Phonics Screening Test**

This takes place in the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The children sit with a teacher and complete the activity. It feels very similar to activities in class and we don't mention tests or check-ups.

### **Forms for medication**

Forms for medication and other important letters such as class trip letters are now on the website in the News and Letters section.

### **Spare Underwear**

Please could all Reception and KS1 children have a spare pair of underwear in their P.E kits please? Our spares box is running very low and it would help us greatly if children had a spare pair in school in case of accidents.

### **We are delighted with the kindness and generosity of our school community – a huge thank you to you all!**

- Sponsored Books - A big thank you to CJG Tipper Hire in Orrell for sponsoring a set of internet safety books for school through the Police Community Clubs of Great Britain.
- Sponsored Kits - Get Chris Minibus Hire has kindly sponsored/paid for a full football kit for our school.
- Thanks also to one of our parents who has donated prizes to raise funds for a new netball kit.
- Our Reception Class have gratefully received a kind donation of bark, sand and gravel from William Kirby.
- Thank you to everyone who has sent in good quality books to help us boost our class libraries.

### **PSFA – Thanks from the School Council**

Dear PSFA

As House Captains we would like to thank you for all the money and hard work you put into our school. This term, money raised has paid for every class to enjoy outside lessons with the Nomad Rangers. The teachers have been able to buy some really useful equipment for Design and Technology and some money has also been put aside for new playground equipment.

Addison, Molly, Euan and Oscar

## Dates

<b>May 2019</b>	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Local Government Election – we are a voting site. Children will go straight into class on this day. Y3 and Y4 children will be collected at the end of the day from the playground and not the classroom doors.
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Non Uniform Day – Bottles for the tombola for the summer fair
WB: 13 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS week
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	PSFA Fancy dress walk PSFA Disco
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Reception Class visit to Smithills Farm
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	European Parliamentary Elections. Children will go straight into class on this day. Y3 and Y4 children will be collected at the end of the day from the playground and not the classroom doors.
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Break up for Half Term
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	INSET DAY
<b>June 2019</b>	
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	New Intake Meeting for 2019
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Tempest photographers – Class Photos
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	SPORTS DAY (KS2 AM and KS1 PM)
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 and Y6 working with Nomad Rangers. (This has been entirely paid for by the PSFA)
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Nomad Rangers to work with Year 3 and Year 4. (This has been entirely paid for by the PSFA)
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception class 2019 - New intake induction afternoons 1
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	UHHS Year 6 Information Evening for children and parents
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	UHHS Year 6 Taster Day
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Nomad Rangers working with Year 1 and Year 2 (This has been entirely paid for by the PSFA)
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Transition Day at Shevington High School
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception class 2019 New intake induction afternoons 2
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	UHHS Year 6 'Getting To Know You Disco' – 6pm
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Chocolate Donations for PSFA Summer Fair
<b>July 2019</b>	
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year Reception working with the Nomad Rangers (This has been entirely paid for by the PSFA)
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 2 Trip to Blackpool Zoo
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	PSFA Summer Fair
WB Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Final School Reports to be sent home
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	New Intake Wider Family visits
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Y4 Trip to Martin Mere
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	New Intake Wider Family Visits
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 Taster Day at UHHS
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Optional Parents Meeting
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 BBQ after school until 6.30 (parents welcome from 6.00pm to share a glass of something bubbly)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers Assembly 9.30am at school approximately an hour but refreshments will be served after.
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	3.00pm Y6 'Tunnel of Love.' Y6 parents and families/all parents are welcome to join the whole school as every child and adult in school makes a tunnel for our Y6 pupils to walk through. We clap and cheer them on their way.