



Weekly Newsletter

3 July 2020

Making learning an adventure

Our school value for this half-term is... CONFIDENCE

Parents/Carers and Children

This week we will be saying goodbye to our Year 3 pupils until they return in September as Year Fours! I am so pleased that we have been able to give them some time in school before the end of the academic year, which has allowed them to see one another again, to spend some time with their teachers and to meet their Year 4 teachers. Similarly, our Year 6 pupils have had their final sessions in school, after 5 weeks back. Some of them are able to visit their new school next week and all will be returning for a leavers' day on 15 July, which they have spent some time preparing for over the last 2 weeks.

As with all of the returning year groups, I have been impressed with the mature way in which the vast majority have returned to school after such a long period of absence. We fully recognise that the lockdown has impacted on children and families' wellbeing and that it will take time both for these wounds to heal and for them to get fully back on track with their learning. However, it really is a credit to the children how quickly they have adapted to our new school routines and how hard they have worked both at home and since being back in school.

Both Years 3 and 6 have received annual reports this week and those in Reception and Years 1, 2, 4 and 5 will receive theirs next week. Given the length of the period of school closure, we have been unable to produce the fuller end of year report that we had initially planned, but we were keen, as a staff team, to ensure that every child had a summary of their year to take home before the end of term.

Next week, we look forward to welcoming Year 2 and 4 back into school, alongside those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 5. We will be continuing to follow the Monday/Tuesday Red and Blue Houses and Thurs/Fri Yellow and Green Houses model. Please note that school will close for the Summer break at the current normal time (staggered times from 2:45 to 3:15pm) on Friday 17 July.

Returning to School in September

The government published its long-awaited guidance for the full opening of schools yesterday. Essentially the guidance stipulates that the school must continue to operate protective bubbles to minimise the number of contacts each pupil and member of staff has in school. Crucially, it does endorse a return to full classes of 30. This does mean that, although the school will continue to operate the majority of the existing protective measures (such as staggered start and finish times and reduced whole-school or large group activities), we do expect to be able to accommodate the children in school full-time.

Following a meeting of the school's governing body this week, the school leadership team and I continue to work on our plans for September, which we expect to be able to share with parents by the end of next week. This information will also be added to the [returning to school page](#) of our website where parents can find all the latest information about the phased re-opening.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker

Headteacher

Further Information and Reminders

Book Stock

Please ensure that all school book stock (be it from the library, reading scheme or classrooms) is returned to school before the end of term.

School Uniform

We are pleased to be able to confirm that our uniform supplier, Stevensons is open and well stocked for High Beeches uniform. Parents can order directly through their website or, if they would like a fitting, must book an appointment to do so, because of the COVID19 restrictions. Both should be done through parents' online accounts [here](#).

The FOHBS uniform upcycling team are also very well stocked with pre-loved uniform, helping to support families and to reduce waste. More information can be found on [their Facebook page](#).

St Albans [Raring2Go Magazine](#) is available online here.

Finally, we hope you enjoy this detailed, annotated painting of a tarantula by Aya in Hawthorn Class, as part of their project work related to *the Explorer* by Katherine Rundell.

