



'Engage - Inspire - Empower'

Head Teacher Newsletter

September 2020

Welcome back to the new academic year, I hope you all had a good summer break after our very unusual summer term. It is really lovely to see all of our children back in school and we are looking forward to meeting all of our new Reception children and families on Monday.

The children have been fantastic in the way they have returned to school and adapted to the changes, settling in beautifully and already focusing on their work. The different times of coming to school and leaving is working well and we appreciate the quick goodbyes you are giving and then moving away from the gates as that really does help us in being able to keep different groups of parents separate.

We have had a couple of staff changes in school. We of course welcome Sakina who officially started teaching at Jenny Hammond last week although she was able to meet a lot of her Year 1 parents when the children returned for a few weeks at the end of their Reception year. Rosie, our Learning Mentor has now left and is moving out of London and Sam and Shen, 2 of our Special Needs Assistants, have also finished their contracts. They will all be missed and we wish them all the very best. We will be appointing a Learning Mentor in the near future.

Rosie, our Year 2 teacher has started her maternity leave and now has a beautiful baby girl called Ada to fill her days.

A Reminder of Classroom Names!

In the last academic year we started using the names of trees as our class names but I thought it may be useful to have a little reminder as the office will often ask if you phone which class your child is in!

The classes are:



Reception Louise – Conker
 Reception Gilly – Acorn
 Year 1 Sakina – Sequoia
 Year 1 Anita – Holly
 Year 2 Stephen – Rowan
 Year 2 Bilkis – Willow
 Year 3 Fenella – Juniper
 Year 3 Andrew and Gemma – Aspen
 Year 4 Ashleigh – Lilac
 Year 4 Peter – Maple
 Year 5 Georgia – Sycamore
 Year 5 Hannah - Cedar
 Year 6 Alyson - Chestnut

Parent Consultations

We will not be holding face to face consultations this term but instead the teachers will be able to discuss your child’s progress over the phone. If you would like to book a consultation with your child’s class teacher to discuss their progress then please leave your name on the booking register which can be found on your class page on our website. Please note we will not be making phone calls in the first 3 weeks as we get to know your children again.

Playtimes and Lunchtimes

As you know your children are in class bubbles and where possible we keep them separate from other children. The only time this changes is at playtimes and lunchtimes which are now staggered. At these times the children play within their Year group rather than just their class. For example all of Year 1 children will be together in the dining room and then play out in a dedicated part of the playground. Reception, Year 1 and 2 are provided with free fruit at morning play. Children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 (KS2) are encouraged to bring in a piece of fruit for playtime as well. **Children should also bring in their water bottle every day as the water fountains are currently switched off.**

It is important that the children are in school on time so they don’t miss their allocated start time

School Streets - Parking, Dropping Off and Collecting Your Child

From Monday 14th September Worsley Road, Elsham Road and a small part of Cary Road become a ‘School Street’ and are closed off to vehicles between **8.30am and 9.30am and the 3pm to 4pm**. This means that unless you live in these roads you cannot drive down them at those times even if you have the relevant parking permit. Cameras have already been installed to monitor the roads and you will receive a fine if you drive down the roads during those times.

Your child took further information home about School Streets this week so please check their book bags if you haven’t seen it.

We are not going to be able to do all of our fundraising events this year however we can do **Jeans for Genes Day** which is all about raising money to help some of the most vulnerable children in the UK who have life threatening genetic disorders.



On **Friday 25th September** we are asking that all the children and staff wear non uniform with their jeans and **bring in £1.00**. All money raised will go to the charity.

Universal Free School Meals

For the last 6 years children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** are entitled to free school meals regardless of income. This is known as Universal Free School Meals and means that if you have a child in any of these 3 Year groups then you do not have to pay. If your child is in Key Stage 2 and you are in receipt of income support/universal credit then you are still entitled to Free School Meals and should apply on the council website at www.walthamforest.gov.uk.

If you are in receipt of income support/universal credit in Reception or Key Stage 1 can I ask that you still apply through the council website for free school meals as this gives you an entitlement for other things such as some reduction on the cost of trips and clubs.

Schools meals are **£2.30 a day, £11.50 a week**. Dinner money can only be paid on Parentpay. If you do not have a Parentpay account then please see Jacquie Reid, Business Manager, who will give you an activation letter. The school does not profit from school meals.

Please note that once your child is in Year 3 School dinners are no longer free and will cost you £11.50 a week unless you are eligible for free school meals which needs to be applied for.

Please **do not** hand in money to the school office.

Children bringing in packed lunches are reminded that fizzy drinks, sweets, chocolates or nut products, (including chocolate spread and peanut butter), are **not** allowed in their lunch box.

Absent and ill children

If your child is absent from school for any reason can you please phone the school office before the start of the school day. If we have not heard from you after 9.30 am we will phone you at home.

In light of the current circumstances if your child has been sick at home or school and is sent home we are asking that they stay at home for 48 hours before returning to school so that they are completely well. If there are any changes to the length of time we are asking your child to stay at home, parents will be informed.

As always we cannot authorise any absences unrelated to illness during term time except in exceptional circumstances. If you miss school due to a change in flight details you will be asked to produce your original flight details and confirmation of the change so we can authorise absences that are out of your control.

Updating your Child's Details and Medical Records

Can you please ensure that if any of your details have changed the office is informed as soon as possible so that we can update your child's records. Please see Jacquie or Marie if your details have changed including any childcare changes. This includes any changes to medical conditions or allergies.

If your child has medication that we keep in school can you please ensure that it is in date. If your child is in Year 5 and 6 and has an asthma pump they will look after their pump themselves in preparation for when they move on to secondary school. Asthma pumps for children in other year groups will be kept in the medical room as usual.

Reading Books

In each class there is a selection of books that children are encouraged to take home and read, these are called Core books and have been especially selected for the age group of the class. These books have green stickers on which the children take home. As we went into lockdown in March children obviously still had their school reading books at home and we now need to you to bring them back into school so that they can be shared with their new class. We are asking the children and parents to have a look to see whether you have any school books at home. All our books should be stamped with the school name. Can your child please hand in their reading books to their current class teacher.

Throughout September we are not sending books home for the children to read because of the current situation on sharing resources and resources moving between places. In the meantime you will find reading ideas and comprehension activities on your class pages on our website from next week. We are also increasing the amount of time in the school day that we spend on reading and teaching the skills of reading.

We would still like you to be reading with your children regularly at home from their own book collections however if you are struggling to buy books then please do not hesitate to have a quiet word with your class teacher and we can provide books for your child to keep.

Class Newsletters

The class newsletters can be found on our website by the end of this week outlining all the information regarding the teaching and learning in that particular class. The newsletter also includes information on PE times and some information on the curriculum. Dates for this academic can be found at the end of this newsletter. Individual class timetables can also be found on the class pages on our website at www.jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk

We are not expecting children in Year 1 to Year 6 to complete POWer projects this half term however we have put POWer projects relating to the children's topic on their class page if you would like them to do some of the activities. You are very welcome to send in photos of your child's work to the school email and it can be shared with the class.

The school newsletter will be published fortnightly this year and again can be found on our website. The first newsletter will be published on Friday 25th September. If you are on Parentmail then you will receive an electronic version of the newsletter and a copy is published on our website and on

our App. If you haven't already signed up for Parentmail so that information can be sent out to you electronically then please give your email address to Jacquie or Marie in the office.

All newsletters and POWer projects can be found on our website so please check it regularly

The Jenny Hammond App

Our school app is available for Android and Apple devices.



With the app you can:

- Get in touch with us
- View our calendar
- Read our newsletter
- Watch JHTV
- View your child's Power Project



Please note that when we send messages through the app if you click on the link the message disappears so you need to swipe down on the message.

School Uniform

School uniform can be ordered on line from Speedstitch at www.speedstitch.co.uk. You are also able to get our uniform from the Speedstitch factory outlet in Walthamstow, details from the school office. Please note that children should not be wearing jewellery or make up at school. Stud earrings or small hooped earrings are allowed if your child already has their ears pierced. Our uniform colours are white shirt or polo top, red jumper or cardigan and **navy blue** skirt or trousers.

PE Kits

Please ensure that your child's clothes are appropriate for the activities they are doing in PE. The children should have either blue or black shorts and a plain white T-shirt, all of these items can be bought from any major supermarket. PE kits should normally be kept in our drawstring PE bag which can be purchased from the school office however **at the moment we are asking the children to come to school already dressed for PE on the day they have it.** Therefore children can wear tracksuit bottoms if they would like to as PE will be outside for the first half term. Class newsletters will give you more information on the days your child has PE. **Year 3 will be going swimming once a week as part of their statutory PE curriculum however we are not starting swimming at this current time.**

May I stress how important it is that all uniform including PE kit is clearly labelled with your child's name so that lost items can be returned to the correct owner. Well done already to the parent who has actually ironed photographs of their children's faces on to the inside of their uniform!

Book Bags & PE Bags

As children aren't bringing in PE kits, (see above), or taking school books home at the moment then they do not need to bring in their bags however they will need them in the near future.

If your child needs a new book bag they can be bought from the school office for £6.50. PE Bags are £4.75. The school does not make any profit from the sale of these bags.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club has already started and runs from **8.00am** each morning and children are supervised until they are taken to class. Breakfast on offer at the moment includes different cereals, yogurts, fruit and a drink. This is included in the cost of the childcare which is **£3.00** a day for Reception aged children and for children in Years 1, 2 and 3. Unfortunately we cannot supervise any children before 8 am and ask that you do not bring your children to school before then.

Children in Year 4 and above are charged at **£2.00** a day which covers the cost of their breakfast and supervision.

Please note that at this current time we are restricting the number of children in breakfast club and they are split into 3 groups having breakfast in different parts of the school so that we can keep bubbles separate. Please only register your child for breakfast club at the moment if you are back at work and need the childcare.

If you would like your child to attend breakfast club then please ask for a form from the school office.

Music Lessons

Music lessons, including the piano, violin and guitar, are run directly by the company PianoFunClub. You will be able to book and pay directly to them and the lessons will take place at our school during the school day. These lessons are recommencing this week and will be carried out in the studio to enable the music teachers to keep socially distanced from the children if appropriate. If you would like your child to have music lessons then you can find out more at www.pianofunclub.co.uk.

Code of Conduct

At Jenny Hammond we have high expectations of behaviour from our children and the school community. When your child joins the school you, your child and the school sign up to our home school agreement where we expect all our staff to act professionally and staff, children and parents to treat each other and talk to each other with respect. We ask that if you have any concerns you bring them to the attention of the class teacher or Leadership Team for the school to act upon and that you do not approach other children to discuss it.

Please also read the **Parent's Code of Conduct** on our website.

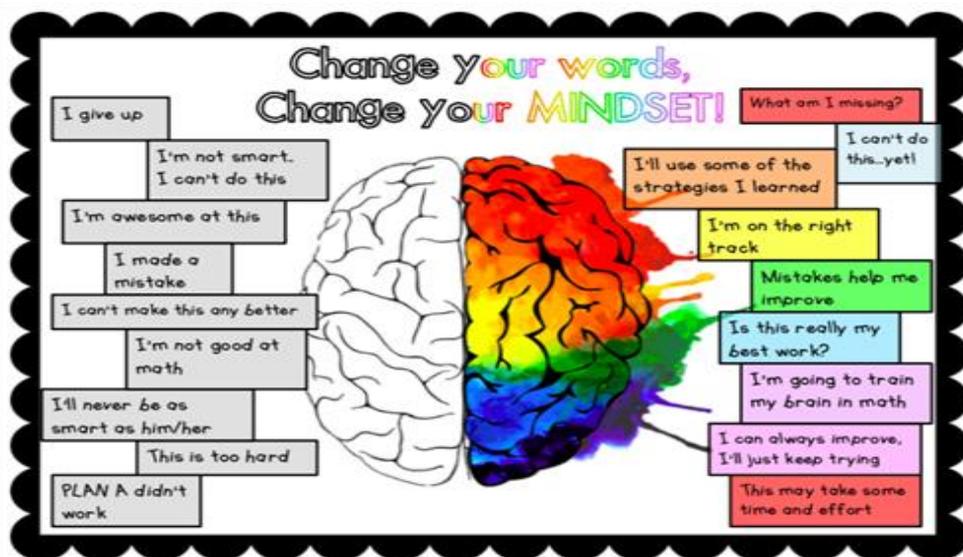
And finally

A Growth Mindset

You will hear the staff talking to the children about having a growth mindset where the children have a love for learning, emotional resilience and high expectations of themselves. When they can't do something, they can't do something 'yet.' They make 'fantastic' mistakes, have 'brilliant' brains and they support each other as Learning Partners.

Having a growth mindset enables your child to flourish both socially and academically and we believe it has a positive impact on the children at Jenny Hammond.

A parent guide can be found on our website which tells you a bit more about it.



Best wishes
Deborah
Head Teacher

Academic Term Dates For Your Diary

Autumn Term 2020

Year 1 to Year 6 Children Start – Monday 7th September 2020
Reception Children Start – Monday 14th September 2019 at 9.05am (Half days for the first week)

Half Term - Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October
Children Break Up – Friday 18th December 2020 at 2.30 pm

Christmas Holidays - Monday 21st December 2020 to Friday 1st January 2021

Spring Term 2021

Staff INSET Day, school closed to children – Monday 4th January 2021

Children Start – Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 9.05am

Half Term - Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2021

Children Break Up – Thursday 1st April at 2.30pm

Easter Holidays –Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April 2021

Summer Term 2021

Children Start – Monday 19th April 2021 at 9.05am

May Day Bank Holiday – Monday 3rd May 2021

Half Term - Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021

Children Break Up – Wednesday 21st July 2021 at 2.30 pm

Staff INSET Day, school closed to children – Thursday 22nd July 2021

For more information on everything that happens at
The Jenny Hammond Primary School
visit:

www.jennyhammond.waltham.sch.uk

Jeans for Genes Day – Friday 25th September
Bring in £1.00 to support the charity