



September
2020

Hillary Herald

Welcome to the new year and new term. I was going to try and make this version of Herald focussed on all our plans for the coming year and avoid the C word- however, I haven't managed it. We've had to change and adapt things that we would normally do so you need to know where the significant changes are. So let's get on with the exciting stuff – which is what education is all about!

Big Maths!!

We are really excited about this development and think it is exactly the right programme to be putting into place across the school in the light of the children having an inconsistent learning experience whilst in Lockdown. It is a very tight and progressive programme with a bucket full of new terms for us all to become familiar with. We will give you more information in a few weeks' time, but immediately the children will be talking about Beat That's and daily CLIC's. The Beat That's are the assessment challenges that the children do and the mindset is always to do better than the last time- to Beat That. To help the mindset for the children – don't worry which 'sheet' they are on- just that they did better than the previous time they did it. CLIC stands for Counting, Learn It's, Its Nothing New & Calculation. This is the taught element of the programme where the teacher gives the children the next steps and application in calculation for them to do better in their Beat That. As a scheme it is not the 'be all and end all' of maths but very carefully and cleverly provides the logical progressions for children's learning. We will be supplementing it with creative maths as well (doing Maths the way Mathematicians do it, leading the children more thoroughly into algebra by Y5 and creating a Gifted and Talented programme) but not until after half term once we've learned how this new scheme operates.

Parents Evening-Urgent Change

Having informed you of the Parents Evening plan **we are having to change it** following the advice given last night for groupings of people not being bigger than 6. We need some time to think but may have to do these through Microsoft Teams instead and push them on a week to give us chance to re-organise. We are doing these meetings because we were not able to do transition like we would normally do in the summer and need as much information from you at the start of the term as possible so as to meet your child's needs over the coming year. One question we will be asking is what laptops or tablets the children were using in Lockdown and how we may be able to support you further should a local lockdown involving school or partial school closure be put in place.

Equalities Curriculum

Lockdown gave us the opportunity to do a really long hard look at our curriculum with regards to equalities. We are proud of the way our staff and therefore our children champion the rights of inclusion and diverse family structures, LGBT+ issues and racial stereotyping, but we can always do more. There's a real tension when you design a curriculum- when you want to get children to experience the very best in the world- Beethoven, Michelangelo, Shakespeare, Newton, Archimedes, Pythagoras, there is a constant implicit understanding that being white and male is an exclusive property of being best. So we are making sure that we change the narrative for children – we will continue and in some cases do even more to show them the best of what we are terming 'The Western Tradition' but we are also making sure that the children know & take inspiration from the work of black and female artists & know why these are largely from the 20th Century & not before. We are connecting up the stories and contributions of women mathematicians & scientists as part of this work as well. We have been challenged by the issues of a simple lack of knowledge that the Black Lives Matter protests have exposed & therefore our curriculum review took this into consideration as well. We talked with the history teachers at Valley and are confident that the children will get a comprehensive understanding of the African experience of slavery, we noted that they do nothing to review an understanding of Empire – so in the long term we will create a project in Uks2 that will look at Trade and the British in India. To meet our Curriculum Theme of Sustainability we will start looking at the history of the Oil Trade to complement what we already do with Coal. So, some big changes but driven by a real desire to fulfil our obligations to Equalities. Please give us your feedback on these areas and ideas for how we support these themes are always welcome.

School Trips

We are resuming day trips this term in line with Government guidance. We will still need adult support for them and letters will be going out to inform you of when they will be. There will be some limitations as to which of these we can do and alternatives may have to be found in some instances from our normal programme.

Outdoor Ed & Residential

Our plan from last year was to try and grow our Outdoor and Adventurous Activities curriculum. As a school named after Sir Edmund Hillary- it really ought to have a higher priority than it has had- especially as there are so many gains for children for them to be working outdoors in teams and on challenges. Just before lockdown, we had engaged 'Bob' Parker to work with staff and children. Those who were in school before the summer will all have met him at some point) to develop this programme and part of this will be to build in overnight visits into Ys 2, 4 & 6 rather than focus on one Residential at the end of Y6.

The current advice however this term is for us to not go on Residential School Trips but to look to plan for these resuming. So we are trusting that this will change into the Spring Term so we are looking to make some bookings for the future- knowing that we had to cancel the Y2 night away and that there may be some very favorable deals available to us by some providers given the current climate.

Governors

We will be running an election process starting next week for parents. If you wish to know more, then please don't hesitate to contact Mr Guest.

No Cross- Phase Mixing

This one really saddens us and makes some of what has traditionally made Sir Edmund Hillary Primary School such a special place to be no longer possible. That is the way we encourage our children to interact and support each other across year groups. So we can't do Reading Buddies and Foundation Friends and Helping Hands on the playground. We won't be running the School Council and Colour Teams won't be operational. We've found ways in which our Breathing Ambassadors can work virtually in different classrooms. We just need to get this virus taped - everybody to keep attentive at social distancing and handwashing so we can get these special things back. *Please support us before and after school with this- children must not mix with children outside of their Family or Year Group Bubble.*

School Photos

And this then leads on to one of those bizarre inconspicuous within the guidance we have to follow through with. We can do Individual Photographs but unfortunately we will not be able to do Family / Sibling photographs. This is because, whilst obviously family members are within a bubble already, we can't work out a way to make these happen without other year groups coming into contact with each other.

Nativities

I know it seems a long way off but we have already decided to not open the school for Nativity performances- Instead we will do them by Zoom. It breaks my heart- but public performances are a long way from being on the cards, as any musician will tell you.

Lunch Time Supervision

We are on the look out for Supply Mid Day Supervisors, to work in school over lunch when a regular Mid-day Supervisor may be unavailable. The hours are 11.20 am to 1.15 pm. If anyone is interested in doing either part or all of the time then please be in touch with the office as soon as possible.

Daily Mile

To help the children return to fitness following Lockdown we are going to be doing the Daily Mile. The aim is just to get better each time and to have some fun. Children and staff will run, jog or walk at their own pace for 15 minutes with the aim of being outside in a social setting to pursue fitness. Its inclusive so the point is to contribute yourself in whatever way you are able to. A full mile is six times round the field and playground. There's a great website explaining this - if you care to look...

<https://thedailymile.co.uk/about/>

Poetry Slam

We had the most fantastic time learning poetry in February just before Lockdown- the examples are still on the Website for all to see. So we've decided to make a splash for the first half term and repeat this- but we will have to Zoom between classes. This does mean that we get the opportunity to share it with you. More info to follow.

SEHPS seeks to make any reasonable adjustment for any access needs that you may have. Please inform us if there is any way in which we can better arrange access for you and your family.