



National Teaching School
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National College for
Teaching & Leadership

National Support School
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Hampton Hargate Primary School
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17th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of an unusual, challenging and difficult school year for everyone, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some updates relating to our school.

With all the changes and uncertainty over the recent months, we have been planning for various scenarios for September. We all long for a return to normal life and normal schooling, but until then, we have to do our best to make the situation work safely and effectively for us all. Being able to have all pupils back in school from September is a big step on the way to being 'normal' but we will still have to maintain some of the restrictions in place from this summer term. Further details for September will be sent out to parents prior to the start of September. Therefore, please do check your emails over the summer as there will be important information to take note of.

STAFFING AND ORGANISATION

We have had 6 teachers absent from school over this last term due to Covid-19 as they were/are all pregnant. They were: Mrs Duerden, Mrs Cordes, Mrs Tomson, Miss Barks, Mrs Colley and Miss Gallagher. Mrs Colley and Mrs Tomson will be back with us for a couple of months in September and we look forward to hearing all the happy news over the coming months.

We welcome four new teachers to our school team from September. Miss Shepherd (Yr5), Mrs Wills (Yr2), Miss Griffin (Yr2) and Mrs Brown (Reception). I am grateful to all four new teachers who have already been working with us during this term to help ensure they are 'up to speed' and ready for the new school year.

We also welcome Mrs Willard to our Lunchtime team; Mrs Russell, Mrs McAllister & Mrs Kaur to our TA team.

We are saying goodbye (again!) to Mrs Morris today. Mrs Morris has been working with Mrs Vance in Year 3 and has again done a great job. We thank her for her hard work, dedication and enthusiasm to our school and I am sure we will see her back working across various classes in the new school year.

SATs/ASSESSMENT RESULTS

With the impact of Covid-19 there are no SATs/Assessment results to report on for this academic year.

SCHOOL DINNERS

The cost of pupil dinners will remain **unchanged** at £2.50 from September.

SITE, BUILDINGS AND HEALTH & SAFETY

Despite the impact of Covid-19 we have still been able to go ahead with planning for much of the building and premises work around school to ensure that we keep on track with our rolling programme of works plus ensuring that we meet all the health & safety requirements. This summer the work includes:

- Ongoing maintenance and decoration around the school
- Areas of the school will be re-carpeted
- Some of the remaining original wooden doors and windows are being replaced, including the fire doors from the Old Hall adjacent to the school car park (please note – the Community Room, which joins our school building is NOT owned by our school. We have been increasingly concerned about the appearance and condition of this room and the negative visual appearance it gives to our



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school. We are looking into options and may ask for your help from September as we look into ways of asking the Local Authority to address this)

- Playground marking and carpark markings are being renewed and updated
- PAT testing across school
- Full fire alarm service
- Replacement of sound speakers in New Hall
- Lightening protection – testing, inspection and certification
- Thorough deep clean across all areas of the school

END OF TERM REPORTS

Thank you to all of you who have returned report comment slips so far. We do appreciate your views and opinions and value your feedback and responses. If you have not yet done so, please do drop off your slip at the office or return via email.

I would like to reiterate that the assessments indicated on your child's report are where your child was at as of **20th March 2020** when they completed their last assessments. Where children have been in school since 23rd March (Key Worker groups) or since June 1st (Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and Key Worker groups) this will have been taken into account when making end of year judgements. However, it is important to note that the time from 23rd March has not been 'normal' and, however we look at it, children have missed a part of their time in school. Therefore, no child's assessment grade is based on a full, normal year.

We can only give an honest and professional judgement based on what the children have achieved and not what we '*think*' they may have achieved by July.

Please do not be concerned if your child has been reported as 'working towards' when you were expecting from previous conversations with their teacher that they would be working at 'expected' or 'working above'. Under normal circumstances, it is highly likely that they would have achieved this but I am sure you can appreciate the unique situation we have all found ourselves in this year. If your child was 'working towards' in March then they would have been on track to achieve 'expected' at the end of the school year. If your child was 'expected' in March, then they were on track to be 'working above' at the end of a 'normal' academic year.

Please be reassured that all the teachers and teaching assistants in our school are skilled and experienced at building upon previous learning and pupil understanding. Since March, our staff have been working and planning on how to address the learning gaps which have occurred since lockdown. They have been restructuring curriculum planning for September onwards to ensure that children will have the opportunities and support to catch up. This may not happen instantly, but it will happen over time; and the more time the children have in our school, the more time they will have to catch up appropriately. This must be carefully balanced so as to not create pressure, worry or anxiety for pupils, but will be done in a way to engage and reignite the love for learning and enthusiasm for making good progress each year. Each teacher will identify any gaps in the children's understanding and revisit and adjust accordingly. This has been planned with this year's teacher/s as well as with their teachers from September.

As I stated in my letter to you which accompanied your child's report:

All staff in our school are disappointed with the disruption [due to Covid-19] and impact on the pupils of our school. We will continue to work with pupils and parents to ensure that the opportunities are available for children to 'catch up' for time which has been lost. This may not be an easy task, especially at the moment, but our staff are committed to helping our pupils achieve to their full potential. We have a good track record of enabling pupils to make accelerated progress in our school and that will remain a key focus moving forwards.

We are aware that some children may need more support from September as they may not have fully accessed the home learning for a variety of different reasons, but we are also aware that some children will have made excellent progress from enjoying one to one support during the closure and accessing the work provided, which was all based around our planned curriculum coverage. Most importantly, our initial focus



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when we return as a whole 630 pupil school in September, is to support all children with their emotional and social wellbeing following their experiences in this difficult time.

Please do not worry – 14 weeks is the most any of our children will have missed. Yes, it sounds a lot and is roughly equivalent to a school term but, looking at this over a child's full time in our school and then secondary schools, catching up on this is achievable with the correct and most appropriate support being put in place.

We have always worked closely with parents and we acknowledge and appreciate the support you offer to your children and to our school. This close working partnership (socially distanced for the moment!) is one of the many positives and strengths of our school and by maintaining this next year and beyond, we will work together to help support and move your child's learning forwards.

SPORTS WEEK 2020

Sports Week wasn't able to take place this summer term but we have currently got a plan in place to offer a Sports Week in some sort of format for w/b 21st September. At the time of writing we are hoping that this will go ahead with the obvious additional safety and cleaning processes in place. We hope to provide more details at the start of term. Also, we intend to run the Sports Week as normal next June/July in addition to anything we can offer this September.

WELCOME MEETINGS

Sadly, we cannot offer the normal Welcome Meetings for you in school in September. However, to try and help ensure that you can still receive the appropriate information for your child's year group, teachers have produced detailed information sheets for you and these will be available on the school website and e-mailed to you from Tuesday 8th September or sooner.

PARENT EVENING

We have set dates for Parent Evening appointments for the end of October as we have done in previous years. Realistically, this isn't going to happen in the normal face to face way. When we get further into the new term, we will reassess the situation and decide on the best way forward. This is likely to result in moving the date back to late November or, the most likely scenario, we will arrange phone call consultations with you on the dates set. We will update you on this in October but, one way or another, you **will** have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teacher/s.

CLASS LESSON VISITS

Again, we will not be able to offer these visits to you in the autumn term. As soon as we can, and it is safe to do so, we will let you know and arrange for later in the school year.

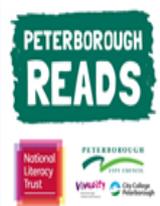
TERM DATES 2020 - 2021

Autumn Term 2020

Term starts for pupils: Thursday 3rd Sept 2020
Half term: Monday 26th - Friday 30th Oct 2020
Term ends for pupils: Thursday 17th December 2020

Spring Term 2021

Term starts for pupils: Tuesday 5th January 2021
Half term: Monday 15th - Friday 19th February 2021
Term ends: Friday 26th March 2021



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Summer Term 2021

Term starts for pupils: Monday 12th April 2021

Half term: Monday 31st May - Monday 7th June 2021

(Children return after half term on Tuesday 8th June)

Term ends for pupils: Tuesday 20th July 2021

Proposed dates for the **2021-2022** school year are available on our school website

DIARY DATES

The dates for the autumn term are provided below. Some of our 'normal' events for this term have had to be cancelled or postponed. As soon as new dates are confirmed we will update you. We hope to be able to add to these dates as the term progresses.

AUTUMN TERM 2020	
SEPTEMBER	
Thurs 3 rd Sept	Children return to school for autumn term.
Fri 11 th Sept	Roald Dahl Day – non-uniform
	Hampton Fun Run – TBC
Fri 18 th Sept	Jeans for Genes Day – non uniform
w/b Mon 21 st	Sports Week (moved from last summer term)
OCTOBER	
Wed 7 th Oct	Individual photo day
Tue 20 th Oct	*Parent Evening (3.30pm – 7.15pm)
Wed 21 st Oct	*Parent Evening (3.30pm – 5.15pm)
26 th - 30 th Oct	Half term week
	<i>*As Parent Eve is unlikely to happen in the normal way, we will consider moving the date back to late November or will offer telephone consultations over specific dates.</i>
NOVEMBER	
Wed 11 th Nov	New intake for Reception year 2021 – 2022 meeting 9.15am TBC
Fri 13 th Nov	Children In Need Day – non-uniform
16 th – 27 th Nov	Switch-off fortnight – date tbc
Tuesday 17 th Nov	New intake for Reception year 2021 – 2022 meeting 6.00pm TBC
DECEMBER	
Wed 9 th Dec	Christmas Dinner Day – pupils & Christmas Jumper Day 1
Friday 11 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day 2
Thur 17 th Dec	End of term

YEAR 6

We say goodbye to our Year 6 children at the end of this week in a way we would rather not have had to. Not having them all in school and doing the Yr6 Leaver Disco, Assembly, Rewards etc is something we have all missed out on and prevented us ending the year on the same high note! We are seeing almost all of our Yr6 children for the last hour on Friday for a socially distanced Year 6 picnic which will give those pupils who have not been in since 1st June, the chance to see the 65 who have been in and to say goodbye to their teachers and TAs.

I would like to wish all of our Year 6 children the very best for their futures and for starting their new secondary schools in September. Although they haven't completed a normal final year, we are confident they move on with skills, talents and ability to do well, make great progress and continue their education successfully. Thanks for being a great Year 6 group!

AND FINALLY....

There has been some mixed media coverage of schools over the last few months. I would like to take this opportunity to thank ***every single member of our school staff*** for making our school and our systems work. Without exception, every member of staff has stepped up and taken on the challenges which have been thrown at us, many at incredibly short notice; nobody has refused or objected, in fact, quite the opposite.



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We have met every deadline and dealt with every situation which has come up, some planned and some unexpected. Our pupils have continued to receive and access work, activities and tasks to keep their learning as 'on track' with our curriculum plan as possible. Our staff have ensured they have remained available and responded to requests for help, support, guidance and sometimes, just to offer reassurance or being available for someone to talk to. In the 12 years I have now been Headteacher at our school, it never ceases to amaze me how brilliant our staff team are. I know not everyone may agree with me, but I know you don't get this everywhere. We aren't perfect - but we always do our best. Sometimes we need to say that the negative headlines and 'spin' which is put out isn't always correct or a true reflection of what is happening.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer and thank you for your continued help and support which contributes to our school's successes, strengths, reputation and fun. To those of you who have children leaving at the end of this term, an extra special 'thank you' & good-bye and our best wishes to you and your children for the future.

Please continue to take good care and we look forward to welcoming all of our pupils back in September.

Mr Andy Lyons
Headteacher

PS. Just to give you a little advanced notice.....

Covid-19 – what happens next for our school?

We have to continue to operate with staggered starts and ends to the school day due to the number of pupils and parents accessing the school site. The times below are the provisional start and end times from September. This will be reviewed and sent out again prior to September but we wanted to help you think about how this may impact your working hours.

It is our intention to run Breakfast and After School Club times as normal for the autumn term for those who have had places confirmed.

Proposed drop off and pick up times are:

Year Groups	arrival time	start time	end time
Reception and Yr1	8.35-8.45am	8.45am	3.05pm
Year 6 & 3	8.45-8.55am	8.55am	3.10pm
Year 5	8.45-8.55am	8.55am	3.15pm
Year 4 & 2	8.55-9.05am	9.05am	3.25pm

We are very much aware that staggered start and end of school times are not ideal and do result in delays to the start of your day as well as some impact on the end of the day too. Please note – these times may have to change if guidance for schools changes from the Government. Please make sure you check for emails from school during the summer break. We will keep you informed as quickly as we receive updates.



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