

Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Connaught Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

As the school year begins to draw to a close, I wanted to write to you to touch base and give you some updates about upcoming events plus some information about September, after receiving the latest DfE guidance.

Reports

The teachers have been busy writing your child's report and these will be emailed out to you next Wednesday 15th July. Please ensure that we have the correct email address for you, and if you do not wish to be sent your child's report by email, please let the classteacher know.

Last Week of term

As you know, your child has been invited into school for a short visit during the last week of term. As Mrs Saunders said in a previous letter, the children do not need to bring in anything except their water bottle, and if it is sunny they will need to be wearing a sun hat and sun cream. Anything they have left in their trays is currently being bagged up by staff (wearing gloves) and will be available for them to bring home. If your child is in Years 3, 4 or 5, we are holding onto their exercise books for next year. Any medication still left in school will be handed to your child as they leave the school premises. Face masks are not recommended as there are potential issues over the children keeping them on. I hope to see as many children as possible coming in as a final goodbye to the academic year 2019-20.

I know that Year 6s are missing out on a lot of the events that they usually have at this time of year and we were delighted to be able to offer the taking of Graduation photos last week. It was so nice to see so many of our children taking up the offer to have their photo taken professionally by the lovely Andy Faulkner. The Year 6 team of teachers and TAs worked incredibly hard to make this run as smoothly and safely as possible, so thank you to Miss Saunders and her amazing team! A big thank you also to Mrs Perkin and Mrs Bensemman who have spent months putting together and coordinating the publishing and distribution of the Year Books and to Mrs Gandy and Mrs Woods who arranged for the Year 6s to receive their hoodies. Sadly, we will be unable to offer Year Book and shirt signing this year as this will compromise the safety of the children and the staff. However, as each class group leaves the school site on Thursday, we will be ringing the school bell to see them off as we traditionally do.

Mr Weeks has been busy putting together a virtual Year 6 production, which will be a collection of rhyming couplets from children and staff. This will be available on the website at some point next week – we will send a parentmail out to Year 6 parents when it has been uploaded.

Headteacher: Miss S McGann

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs K Saunders

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Spare Uniform

If you have any uniform that is in good repair that you could donate to the school, we will be putting out a drop box for this. Also, if you have any nearly new shoes, we would happily take them off your hands.

Class Photos

Class photos have arrived in school and Mrs Davis is distributing these to teachers to hand to their children when they come in next week for their visit.

Gifts

Parents often buy presents for the staff at the end of the school year. This is never expected but we are always very grateful for the gesture of thanks. To minimise the risk of passing on any infection, we will be putting bags or boxes out for children to pop any gifts they have for staff into rather than handing them straight over. I know it is nice for the children to see their teacher's face when they open their present, but we need to follow guidelines on distancing and the touching of surfaces. Nationally, things appear to be improving somewhat with the coronavirus but we still have some way to go.

Summer Holiday Provision

I know that some of you will need childcare provision over the summer holidays so I wanted to let you know that Stepping Stones are running a summer camp at Connaught for the first three weeks of the holiday. This is obviously a paid provision and you would need to contact them directly (their phone number is on our website under clubs) and their spaces are extremely limited. There is no funding coming from the government for schools to provide free childcare for the children of keyworkers as was the case over Easter and half term. Surrey may be providing some summer camps but we have not had any details as yet.

September 2020

As a leadership team, we are currently planning for the September opening of the school to welcome **all** of our children back. We will communicate with you what that looks like when we have some more concrete details. Some of the following are plans that we have been considering implementing for the first half term:

- Having primary year group bubbles and then secondary class bubbles.
- Movement between classes, even in the same year group, will be limited.
- Adults will only move between bubbles if it is absolutely necessary, and movement around the school will be significantly reduced.
- Staggered start/finish times, and staggered breaktimes and lunchtimes for children in different year groups are highly likely.

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- We will be limiting visitors coming into the building and so there will be a drop box outside in which parents can place forgotten items, such as; Lunchboxes, jumpers, water bottles. All of these MUST be labelled.
- Children will be coming into school on their PE days in their PE kits as children will not be able to go into other classes to get changed.

There is so much to consider but the most important thing is to keep the children and the staff safe.

Congratulations

Lastly, I wanted to mention Mr Stewart and Miss Parkinson who have both successfully completed their NQT year, under very difficult circumstances. Mrs Brotherston, who has completed her SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) and will be taking up a teaching position at Crawley Ridge Juniors next year. Mrs Pearce was also successful in joining our wonderful office team to support on the admin side of things. Well done, all!

Once again I would like to thank all of you for your amazing support, emails, gifts and expressions of thanks. We are truly blessed to have such a great community of families.

Thank you

I will look forward to seeing most, if not all, of you next week.

Kind regards

Miss McGann

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