



# Newsletter

## Issue 10 Summer 2020

### Message from Mrs Toplis, Head of School

Time for our last newsletter of the year.

The last few months have seen us all learning to manage in the 'new normal'. I have been so proud of how well the John of Gaunt community have risen to these challenges and I am very grateful to my staff for how hard they have worked during this time and to you as parents for tackling the home learning so well. We know that this has not been an easy task for everyone but we can see from all that you have sent us that some amazing things have been happening behind closed door. Do not underestimate how valuable this time has been for you and your children to learn together and spend time with each other.



We know that the road ahead will also be different and challenging and that there may be times when we once again have to close parts of the school or the whole school because of the ongoing COVID pandemic. Rest assured that if and when this happens we will once again convert our learning from school to home and the teachers will be there to support you with this.

When the children return to us in September, we will take their learning from where they are. We will assess what they know and what they don't know and plan our teaching accordingly to support the children to fill any gaps they may have. It is important to stress that at a young age learning comes in many different forms and we are confident that we will get the children back on track, or started on their learning journey if they are joining us in Reception.

We are hugely excited about our new programmes that we are starting in September. Read Write Inc. is a phonics scheme but also supports reading. The children will have daily phonics lessons as they did before and will use books in class that they will also bring home to share. All books will match the phonics that they have learnt in lessons.

Maths Mastery is a maths programme which, as the name suggests, teaches children to be masterful at Maths! It is also the programme that BVS use for Maths so the children will be able to continue their Maths Mastery journey as they move on.

We will make sure in the Autumn Term that we share more details about our new programmes with you so that you can also share with your children what they are learning. We may not be able to do this through live meetings but there are other ways!

We are also entering into a new programme for PE called 'RealPE'. It is a holistic approach to PE and not only tackles the physical aspect but also the health, nutrition and mental health side of things. It is also a programme that we share with BVS too.

So, John of Gaunt continues to move forwards and develop to best meet the needs of our children and families. I am so proud to lead our John of Gaunt community and I am so grateful for all the support that our families give us.

I wish you all a happy and healthy summer holiday and here's to September.

*CE Toplis*

## New Classes for September

We have had a bit more of a move round ready for September.

### Reception

Leopards - Mrs Gillett and Mrs Bedford  
Turtles - Mrs Gotterson and Miss Tuttle

### Year 1

Elephants - Mrs Simpson and Mrs Hick  
Otters - Miss Bullock and Mrs Warne

### Year 2

Giraffes - Mr Scrivens and Mrs Humphrey and Mrs Mackie  
Zebras - Mrs Farmer and Mrs Sayers

Both reception classes will be back in their normal place from September.

Year 1 classes are moving in to our lovely mobiles. Elephants in the old Foxes classroom and Otters in the old Leopards classroom.

Year 2 classes are moving into the current Year 1 classrooms. Zebras in the old Crocodile classroom and Giraffes in the old Busy Bee classroom.

Also, Mrs Farmer has been appointed as Assistant head at John of Gaunt and will support Mrs Toplis in the running of the school.

## Provisional September Plans

All children will be returning to or starting at John of Gaunt in September. The Nursery will return to offering extended provision as it did before lockdown. Our new Reception children already know the dates and times of their start and Year 1 and Year 2 children will return as normal but maybe with just one day separating their return.

We are going to operate in year group bubbles from September and there will be some small adjustments to the start and finish times of each year groups.

We have not had enough expression of interest for breakfast and tea club for the main school so will not be running this for the first half term, but we will review during this time with the hope that we can start this after half term. Extended provision at the Nursery for nursery age children will still be offered.

A comprehensive parent guidance (as before) will be sent you towards the end of the summer holidays. We have been told by the Department for Education that they will make final decisions about return in September in the middle of August and following this I will be able to issue your guidance. I will also offer some zoom meetings before return for each year group, so that I can support you to understand the guidance and also answer any questions.

As I am sure you can understand, everything is always subject to change as things can change very rapidly in this new world that we live in.

However, we are very much looking forward to having all the children back in September and getting back to the new normal. We will need you as parents and carers to support us with our guidance and adhere to all the 'rules' that are set to ensure minimal contacts which will keep everyone as safe as possible.

Things will be different but John of Gaunt will still be great!

## Other September things

### Shoes

We have decided this year that we are not going to be changing in to indoor shoes as we have done for many years. Please could children come to school in black school shoes and they will stay in these shoes all day. They will need a pair of wellies for outdoor learning and for really wet days outside and a pair of plimsolls for PE.

### Uniform

All children will be returning to school in their school uniform. A reminder that correct uniform should be worn each day at school. Uniform items are:

Grey or black trousers, shorts, skirts or dresses and blue gingham dresses for summer

Grey or black tights and grey, black or white socks

White or blue blouses, shirts or polo shirts

Royal blue cardigans or jumpers (these can be with logo or without)

PE kit: blue or black shorts and a white t shirt (there is a logo t-shirt for sale)

All logoed uniform can be purchased from Kayes school wear in Red Lion Street, Aylsham. Please remember to name all school uniform as it is very difficult to reunite lost jumpers etc if they are not named. Labelling clothes with pen is fine but please be aware that this can wash out over time

### Book Bags

The children will be able to return in September with their book bags so please make sure that you know where these are after lockdown!

### Lunch

We will continue to provide the children with a lunch in September, but this will initially be a packed lunch. This has been a big hit with the children who have returned to their bubbles for the summer term, and the children will be eating in their classrooms or outside if the weather is nice. Children will not be able to bring their own packed lunch in from home. We will not be using orange dinner slips in September. The children will order their own lunch when arriving in their classroom.

## News

The 'Big Norfolk Summer Fun' is a new digital resource for 6-11 year olds. Check it out on the link below.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/campaigns/big-norfolk-summer-fun>

# Gallery

## Having a go with Maths Mastery

