

# THE HAMLET HERALD



'Outstanding learning, within a glittering curriculum, where everyone matters'

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## HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE

A very warm welcome back to the new school year to you all and to our first Hamlet Herald. We have talked about 'Enjoyment' a lot this week with the children, as we are introducing this as a new 4<sup>th</sup> School Value this term. I'm not actually sure who has displayed the most enjoyment this week: children, staff, or parents and carers! The smiley faces all round have been a delight to see, and the return of a full-school 'buzz' as I have walked around the classrooms has been absolute joy to feel. Both our experienced Hamleteers and our new pupils from across the school are settling confidently and calmly into their new year groups and classes. While staff are battling admirably with a whole raft of logistics to manage, the children are just taking each step in their stride.

I have been talking to the children about what it is to be a Hamleteer and how every member of our school community has an important part to play. It has become a bit of a start of year tradition to talk about this using a tangram puzzle as a prop – in case they have come home talking about this and you are wondering what it is all about!

You - our parents and carers – are an important part of this puzzle. Thank you for your ongoing support and kind words of encouragement as we embark on a slightly strange start to the term.

## WEEKLY HOUSE POINTS

Topaz Water	Ruby Fire	Garnet Earth	Sapphire Air
			
To resume next week			

## COVID-19 UPDATE

I attended a Public Health England webinar this week, which was a very useful update, specifically for Southwark schools. It's good to know that Southwark is currently rag-rated green, and as such, is not a borough of intervention or concern. You might be interested to know that Southwark is one of only four London boroughs where there is a Local Contact Tracing system in place, which takes over from the NHS Track and Trace when people cannot be located. This involves knocking on doors and providing Public Health information.

There was much discussion around the difficulty of ensuring social distancing amongst parents and carers at drop-off and pick-up times. There is no easy answer. It was highlighted that the possibility of transmission is much reduced outside, but where you can't maintain a 2m distance, you may wish to wear a face covering at this time.

Our cleaning regime is incredibly robust and the Premises Team have worked hard to establish systems and routines. I was shocked, however, to learn that we have used a normal terms worth of paper towels in one week alone. I was more shocked at the estimated cost for the year if we maintain this level of usage - approximately £8k!!!

So, putting our creative hats on, we've got an idea that we would like to trial. We have spoken to the children in assembly today, and from Monday, we would like to invite them to bring in a **small wash bag** containing a **hand flannel** (and a **small bottle of hand sanitiser** if they wish) to keep in the classroom, for their personal use only. The children can keep these at their desks, use throughout the day at key points as identified by the teacher and then bring them home to be washed at the end of the week. As always, please name all items that are brought in to school. Let's see how it goes...



## A WELCOME BACK FROM OUR PTA

Welcome back everyone and welcome to all the new children and parents joining us this year. Some key headlines:

### Join the PTA

We need your help! Please email [dulwichhamletpta@gmail.com](mailto:dulwichhamletpta@gmail.com) to learn more about the roles we are looking to fill.

### Zoom Quiz: 16-19 October

Get your teams ready - the format will be the same as last term - more details to follow soon.

### Sponsored Activity

Help your kids set up their own sponsored event to raise money for the school IT fund. More details here: [https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/dulwich-hamlet-it-resources/multiply?mc\\_cid=0b38e3b91b&mc\\_eid=6ff99ea65d](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/dulwich-hamlet-it-resources/multiply?mc_cid=0b38e3b91b&mc_eid=6ff99ea65d)

### Uniform Shop (Turney Gate)

9-10am Friday 18th September

9-10am Friday 25th September

From October, the shop opens on the first and third Friday of each month.

### Thank you!

Our Crowdfunder initiative that we launched at the end of last term, and is still very much live and open, continues to grow! Thank you so much for your donations, we are looking forward to supporting the school by purchasing much needed new tech equipment for the classrooms.

## IT Fund for kids at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School



Project by [Dulwich Hamlet PTA](#)

Live



£6,555  
raised in 70 days

101  
supporters

Donate

## MUSIC: PERIPATETIC LESSONS

As we get into the swing of things, we are slowly but surely starting-up music lessons – for existing pupils in the first instance. We are not sending home timetables quite yet, but children will be told which days to have their instruments in school. Unfortunately, ensembles cannot resume this half-term, we will obviously review this as guidance allows. We will be starting new pupils, including those on the waiting list from last year, as soon as we are able, but this will not be straight away. We appreciate your patience in the meantime.

## A FEW START OF TERM REMINDERS!

**Lost property:** It may not surprise you to know that already we have several items of lost property! Fortunately, all correctly named pieces are working their way back to the rightful owner. The children are reminded by their class teachers, teaching assistants and the midday supervisors to collect their belongings. Time is given at the end of lunch and the end of the day to collect sweatshirts, hoodies and packed lunch boxes. We are doing all we can to encourage your children to be responsible. Please, please, please, tick this off your weekend job list and name your child's uniform, especially the hoodie or sweatshirt.

**Hair and jewellery:** Polite reminder.... no jewellery to be worn in school except for stud earrings and a wrist watch. Try to avoid wearing either on PE days. We all missed being able to get a hair-cut during lock down and some of us have chosen to keep our hair at a longer length. Whilst we love our long-flowing locks, please tie up any hair that is longer than the shoulders in a hairband.

**Access to the school site:** A polite reminder that at this time, unless you have a pre-arranged appointment, there is no access on to the school site for parents and carers. This includes the use of our toilet facilities.

## OUR LOCAL ROAD SAFETY

We are aware of the current traffic situation in the Village at school drop off and collection times. We also know there are many differing opinions and feelings about solutions. As a school we are totally committed to ensuring all our children arrive safely, on time, and will always encourage active travel to and from school by bike, scooter or walking, recognising that this is not possible for all. We continue to have an active presence via the Dulwich Safer Routes to School group, and have also been in contact with Margy Newens, and she has requested that all concerns be directed to her: Margy Newens Labour and Co-op Councillor for Dulwich Village Ward, email: [margy.newens@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:margy.newens@southwark.gov.uk)

We have been asked to bring the raised kerbs to your attention. They can be a trip hazard. We have also been asked to remind you that although Calton Avenue and Court Lane have been closed in part to cars, motorbikes and cycles still have access and everyone needs to use the pavement, appropriate traffic lane, and not use the area for playing. It's not a pedestrianised area.

And finally, can we please remind you not to park on the double yellow lines on our local roads at pick-up. We've already had a few communications from residents. Thank you for your cooperation.