

# THE HAMLET HERALD



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## HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE

As we enter the final three weeks of the term, we have some busy times and exciting events planned for our Hamleteers.

Y6 are fully immersed in rehearsals for the premier of their home-grown production: 'A Dulwich Odyssey'. This is a ticketed event, taking place in the wonderful Michael Croft Theatre at Alleyn's, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July. It would be great to have a full-house for our talented performers; we will be providing further details for you next week.

We are looking forward to showcasing the children's artwork from throughout the year at our annual Art Exhibition next week. Please do try to come to one of the two opportunities to see your talented children's creativity, before we curate the work ready for a second display in the frames at North Dulwich train station. Every child will have at least one piece of their work on display.

With our new parent and carer evening next week, we will be telling every one of their September classes on Tuesday. The children will be told in class and you will receive our usual email communication informing you of your child's new teacher. Before the end of term, the children will get the opportunity to spend a short time in their new classroom, with their new teacher. In advance of this information, I thought it would be helpful to inform you of our class teacher changes for September.

Mel King is going to be leaving us at the end of term to take up a part-time position in Lambeth. Mel has worked for the past year in Y3, after completing her initial teaching training with us. We wish her well with this new move; she will be missed by us all.

We are delighted that Kirsty Shreeve is joining our teaching team. She comes to us from Streatham, bringing with her a wealth of teaching experience. We know that you will join us in making her feel incredibly welcome to the Hamlet.

## KEY DATES

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

PTA meeting at The Crown and Greyhound 7:30-8:30pm

### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

'The Weekly Mile' – gates open **8:15-8:30am** Griffin Field  
Parent Focus Group 9am Burbage

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July

Enrichment Celebration assembly  
Art Exhibition, 5:00-6:30pm, Griffin Hall  
New Parent and Carer Evening 6:15-7:30pm, Turney Hall

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July

'The Weekly Mile' – gates open **8:15-8:30am** Griffin Field  
Art Exhibition 8:30-9:00, Griffin Hall  
Y3 to watch Y2 production  
New intake to visit 1:45-2:30pm

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS RUNNING THIS WEEK**

## THE WEATHER, UNIFORM, P.E...

The weather has often been mentioned in an HH; we do love a conversation about the cold, the rain and now the heat! It has been hot this week and we've done our best to keep the children cool, hydrated and calm. We have been particularly mindful in PE lessons, and adapted our approach and delivery accordingly. Please ensure your child has a named water bottle in school every day. They also need to wear a t-shirt and shorts, not fleecy tracksuit bottoms for these warmer days. Please can we ask that you regularly check the names in the clothing your child is bringing home: You may find that they are different to the items you sent them to school in...!

## WEEKLY HOUSE POINTS

Topaz Water	Ruby Fire	Garnet Earth	Sapphire Air
			
105	124	76	100

## ANNUAL GOVERNOR VISIT THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018

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Every year the Governing Body come into the school to see behind the scenes, and look in depth at a particular topic. Through these visits we gain a better understanding of how the school works and see it in practice, thereby enabling us to undertake our role as Governors more effectively. This year we explored the school's vision statement 'outstanding learning within a glittering curriculum where everyone matters'.

We were given the opportunity to test this in different ways:

- informal meeting with staff before starting their busy days
- meeting with three groups of volunteer parents
- receiving a tour of the school classrooms, guided very ably by two enthusiastic groups of pupils
- presentations from senior managers on the vision.

Through meeting with the staff it was clear that the part of the vision statement relating to 'everyone matters' extends to staff. For example, some newer members of staff felt they were fully able to contribute their ideas to the planning and delivery of lessons and activities around school, rather than just the leadership team doing this.

The meetings with parents gave us insights into how they considered the vision was evidenced in reality.

Many positives were raised, including:

- outstanding learning
  - children are happy, love school, are doing well and progressing
  - excellent teaching
- glittering curriculum
  - lots of trips and amazing experiences for the children – there was a sense of 'how does the school manage to do so much?'
  - music provision was seen as superb with excellent resources
- everyone matters
  - children and parents were made to feel welcome, particularly when joining the school part way through a year or after year 3
  - teachers open to discussion and being available to parents at the start and end of the school day
  - parent cafes were seen as a good way of communicating with parents.

There were also some areas for development, which the Governing Body will consider fully at its next meeting in July 2018. Many of these boiled down to communication, and so this will be a key focus moving forward. The school is already taking action: the parent café concept is being further developed through the introduction of parent focus groups, hosted by both a member of the staff and a Governor. The first of these will focus on the Hamlet Herald itself, and is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 9.00am, as advertised in last week's Hamlet Herald. If you would like to attend, please email Stephanie Bartle in the office: [office@dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk](mailto:office@dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk).

Transition from DVIS to the Hamlet was another area for development, and again action is already being taken on this. The school recently hosted an 'international' event jointly with DVIS, which enabled children and parents to move freely between the DVIS and Hamlet playgrounds. The first ever joint break time took place on 26<sup>th</sup> June. Three parent cafes are being held before the end of term, each one focused on one of the new Year 3 classes.

Through the tours the children's enthusiasm and pride in their school was strongly evident. There were many examples of 'glitter' (creativity) around the school, with wonderful art displays covering topics such as Frida Kahlo and Henri Rousseau, through to interesting ways to display complex topics such as a washing line of socks hanging across the classroom with each pair of socks having a two homonyms attached (e.g. hymn and him). Popping into classrooms, children were keen to tell us about what they were learning, and we saw many different methods of teaching in action.



The visit concluded with informative talks from some of the teachers on: how everyone matters (the school's approach to pupil inclusion); outstanding learning (including a focus on the new way that maths is taught) and current and future plans to make school life 'glittering'.



As a Governing Body we were very encouraged by what we saw, and are very grateful to Claire Purcell and her staff for organising such an informative visit. We will continue to reflect on what we learned at our next Governing Body meeting in July.

We look forward to meeting a number of you at the future parent focus groups and events hosted by the school.

Karen Robinson                  Karen Larcombe

Chair                                  Vice Chair

(written on behalf of the Governing Body)