

THE HAMLET HERALD



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

ISSUE 5 | 9th October 2020

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HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE

The PTA have provided me with a wealth of information this week that I hope you will take the time to read, digest, and on the back of, get involved! We had a terrific PTA AGM meeting last Friday – thank you to those of you that gave up your time to attend our virtual meet. We covered all of the usual business, but for me, it was exciting to realise the buzz of ideas and initiatives that were brainstormed amongst the group. On behalf of the school, I felt so supported by you all. We continue to be incredibly stretched with regard to money. COVID has inevitably come with extra costs to the school for which we do not receive additional funding, for example, extra cleaning supplies/staff hours, extra hours to cover an extended lunch break due to 'bubbling' of year groups etc... The PTA fundraising activities have, therefore, never been more important to secure not only the additional extras for our children, but also some of the items we desperately need such as, replacing outdated technology. Thank you in advance for getting involved.

On behalf of the school community, I would also like to take this opportunity to mention our two brilliant Co-Chairs - Gillian and Philippa - who have taken the helm and steered the PTA so successfully for the past two years. Thank you both. While they are not going anywhere and remaining as PTA Co-Secretaries, we are looking for a new Chair/Co-Chairs. Go on, put your name forward...!

KEY DATES

Wednesday 14th October

Y4 visit to Dulwich Woods - PM

Thursday 15th October

Y6 virtual Q & A with Buddhist speaker

Friday 16th October

PTA uniform shop open 9-10am

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

To celebrate World Mental Health Day, pupils and staff have been thinking about how we can all do small things to improve the wellbeing of others. From a smile to an invite to join in a game, little acts of kindness can have a big impact. The puzzle pieces we have made remind us that - although we are only one person - we can all come together to create a community of kindness and care. Happy World Mental Health Day to everyone!

As we mentioned in the HH last week, we are not taking donations directly as a school, but if you would like to do so personally, the link to Young Minds online is:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/donate/>



WEEKLY HOUSE POINTS

Topaz Water	Ruby Fire	Garnet Earth	Sapphire Air
35	31	22	45

STEAM QUESTION OF THE MONTH

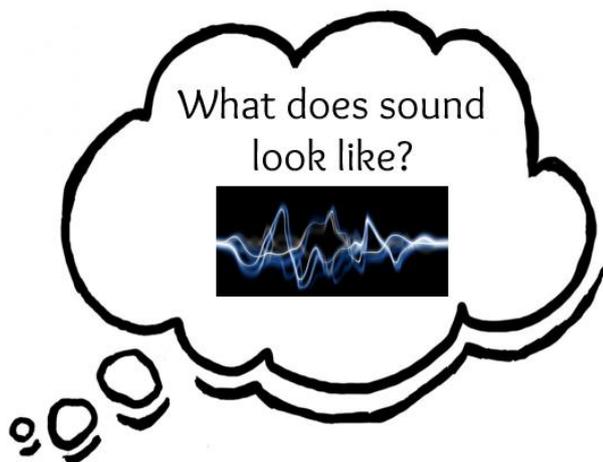
This week, we launched our STEAM Question of the Month for this half term. These questions are shared with the children to encourage their curiosity of the wider world, to deepen their thinking around all things 'science' and to be creative in their interpretations of the way stuff works!

Last year, questions included: What causes an itch? What would the world be like without numbers? Where does the sun go at night? We have been so impressed with the children's creative ideas in the past. Children can respond to the questions on A4 paper or card, and their ideas can be presented however they choose. In the past, we've had stories, letters, pieces of art, information pages and more.

See this half term's question below and the deadline.

STEAM

QUESTION OF THE MONTH



Deadline: **Thursday 5th November**
Hand your submissions in to Miss Harris.

PLAY DATE/CHANGE TO GOING HOME ARRANGEMENTS

Please can we remind you to let the office or the class teacher know of any change to going home arrangements, including play dates.

Please note: parents are charged for non-attendance at after school care.

COVID-19 UPDATE

We thought we would 'lift' some information from our COVID-19 website page this week, particularly in the light of World Mental Health Day, which is officially this Saturday, 10th October. This year's theme set by the World Federation for Mental Health is 'mental health for all'.

 Leading children's charity [Young Minds](#) has some brilliant advice for parents to support children during the pandemic. [Click here](#) for advice on supporting your child to comply with social restrictions.

[Click here](#) to download ten ways to help children cope with change.

[Click here](#) to download a 'parent to parent' advice guide.

 [The Anne Freud Centre](#) has lots of ideas and resources to help families cope during the pandemic. We like this '[Good Days in Unusual Times](#)' booklet for children.



[Place2Be](#) has some lovely activities for families to try together.

[Click here](#) for a useful guide to how to answer Covid related questions from children.

SECONDARY TRANSFER

We are aware from Southwark Admissions that there are still many Y6 families yet to submit their application. The closing date for Secondary applications is fast approaching. Please ensure that your application is completed on-line by **31st October 2020**.

Southwark are recommending, however, that you submit your application a week early (**Friday 23rd October 2020**) as the closing date falls both on a weekend and during the half-term holiday. This will ensure there is time for Southwark Council's admissions team to contact families should there be any issues with the application. For further information, please go to:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/secondary-admissions>

We are mindful that we haven't provided Y6 parents and carers with our usual 'Secondary Transfer' briefing. We will circulate a presentation to you early next week with the key information. If you would like any support with secondary admissions, please do not hesitate to contact Chrissie in the office.

HOUSE CAPTAINS 2020-21

Two weeks ago, we announced our House Captains, Sports and Music Mentors who are pictured here...



We are sure that they will give their very best this year to help our school. This is what our House Captains have had to say about their recent election victories:

Hi I am Josh, I am one of the house captains for Ruby Fire. First of all, I just want to say thank you for everyone who voted for me. I tried hard on my speech and am so excited that my hard work paid off. Representing Ruby Fire and being House Captain means I can make Ruby Fire the best house to be in. I will try and get your ideas across to help make learning more enjoyable and exciting and school life more fun. A place where students can be free and happy whatever gender or race they are. I hope that when I have left the school I would have made it an even better place for children's education. **Joshua 6S**

My name is Dela, I'm the new Ruby Fire House Captain. Thank you very much to everyone who voted for me. I promise I will try and do my best. Unfortunately, because of Covid-19 we can't get started on all the ideas me and the other house captains have thought of immediately, but I'm sure we can figure out a way to do them while we keep in our year group bubbles. We have just got started on a new house point system which seems to be working quite well, and I have a feeling this will be a good year.

Dela 6N

My name is Vy Vy Ngo and I'm Garnet Earth's girl House Captain. First of all, I would like to thank you for voting for me. I promise to do my best to represent Garnet Earth, as well as the school. The only way to win fairly is to work hard and have integrity. I hope this year everyone will give 110% even when things get hard. Let's work diligently, respect others and enjoy being in a team. Thank you for listening and have a lovely day! **Vy Vy 6SP**

I would like to say thank you to everyone who voted for me to be House Captain of Garnet Earth. As the House Captain, I will represent all of the school values and try to get others to as well. I will also try to implement new values such as kindness and I will be open-minded of other people's opinions. We should all show decency and own up for our mistakes. I am very thankful that people thought that my speech was good and decided to vote for me. It's great that people thought I was a good person to represent Garnet Earth. **Stanley 6S**

Thank you for choosing me as your Topaz Water House Captain this year. I am looking forward to representing the school and listening to everyone's ideas. This year, our new core value is 'enjoyment' and I will do my best to make sure that everyone enjoys school. My main focus this year is to make the playground an even more friendly place. I know this year that we can't mix year group bubbles so instead of having mentors in just upper school, we could have playground 'buddies' in each year group. Please remember that I am always open to suggestions: if you see me, come and say hi and don't be afraid to tell me what you think might make school a better place for you. I look forward to getting to know you better, especially all the new students.

Arthur 6SP

I would like to thank all those people who voted for me to be a Topaz Water House Captain. I am very grateful for this opportunity to make our school a better place. I would like to ask people for their serious suggestions as to how the school can be improved, and then I will work hard to try and make the best ideas happen. Thank you again for your support, I will try to be a good House Captain. **Tilly 6S**

Thank you for making me a House Captain for Sapphire Air, I am very grateful if you voted for me. As a House Captain I would love to make our school greener as climate change is a worldwide problem. And this is our future we are talking about. We could create a plastic free scheme of some sort and encourage our parents to decrease their usage of cars. Another initiative I would like to introduce is different types of 'seasons' such as games or sports seasons as I think everyone would enjoy them.

George 6S

Hi, I am Annabelle, your newest girl Sapphire Air House Captain. I am honoured to have this role and I will try my best to make this school even better for you. I thank everyone who voted for me and I will not let you down. I hope to make this school a happier place to be. I know this is a difficult time so my role might have to change a little but I promise to try my hardest for each and every individual that goes to our school. Thank you. **Annabelle 6S**





Welcome to Autumn!

Thank you to all those who joined our AGM last Friday on google meet. We were pleased to see over 20 parents attend. We have a few outstanding issues to address:

- 1) We haven't received any nominations for **Chair and Co-Chair**. Please put yourself forward for this important community position. You will be well-supported by the current committee of enthusiastic volunteers and an active parent group. As a charitable organisation, we are legally bound to have a Chair person, so we cannot let this vacancy go on for too long. Please email the PTA dulwichhamletpta@gmail.com to express your interest, ask questions, or get in touch with the outgoing PTA chairs. If we do not have a Chair within the next few months, the PTA events and fundraising will have to cease.
- 2) **Year 3!** The school shared a link to an excel spreadsheet for each class. Please post your contact details on this shared form, or email dulwichhamletpta@gmail.com. Choose your preferred method. Without your contact details, you will miss emails about opportunities for you and your children to be a part of our events. The school cannot share your details with us for GDPR reasons. We have not had any volunteers for class reps for two of the Y3 classes, so please get in touch!!
- 3) **Thank you to some fabulous Y4 and Y6 parents** who have really kick-started our fundraising this year and thanks to everyone at the AGM for further fundraising ideas and offers of help.

EVENTS:

Virtual Family Quiz: October 16th-19th. Please buy tickets and give a donation while you are there.

<https://buytickets.at/dulwichhamletjuniorschoolpta/433478>

The quiz is compiled by veteran quiz master Cat and her helpers. You will set up your own quiz teams and send us your scores to win a prize! It's a fun family game!

Halloween Fun Run: October 31st, from 2:00pm. Please buy your tickets £15/family on ticket tailor.

<https://buytickets.at/dulwichhamletjuniorschoolpta/435565>

Kids will have a great time running in their costumes and collecting sweets along the way with prizes to be won at the finish! Event approved and licensed by Southwark Council. COVID measures are in place. For details see ticket tailor link or email dulwichhamletpta@gmail.com

Bake off: Friday November 6th: Get your chefs hats on and get baking your most extraordinary 'firework' themed cakes. We will have a competition for the best cake. Entries to come in to school on November 6th. An email with more details on how to enter will go out soon.

COVID and the IT Fund:

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our IT fund. As you know, now more than ever, it is important that the school has sufficient and up to date equipment to adequately manage our children's educational needs, especially in this pandemic environment. We have not been eligible for any grants to cover our needs, so we are reliant on the generosity of parents to contribute to this fund. So far, we have raised £6655. The PTA committee has agreed the first expenditure to cover 1 new teacher laptop for each year group, and USB cameras for the older laptops to enable them to work on Google Meet. In addition, the school needs 40 new tablets which comes with a very large bill. We are currently considering how we will fund this. If you can still give, please go to <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/dulwich-hamlet-it-resources>

PTA Membership: see the DHJS website for class reps and committee members. Note, we still have two Y3 class reps to recruit...!

Amazon Smile!

Simply shop at smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1050815-0 or with AmazonSmile 'ON' in the Amazon Shopping app, and AmazonSmile donates to Dulwich Hamlet Parent Teachers Association

Please look into putting us down as your chosen charity. It is so easy!!!