

THE HAMLET HERALD



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

ISSUE 1 | 6th September 2024

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Claire Purcell | Head of School: Mr Tom Salomonson

Email: office@dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk | Tel: 020 7525 9188/9

NOTE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

"Why do we come to school?" I asked them on Wednesday assembly. Your children get asked a lot of questions over the course of a day and this one has been asked of them so many times it has become thoroughly dull. Those not too busy rolling their eyes batted it away nonchalantly, "To learn!!" Of course!

"OK, but **why** do we learn?" I hit back. This one is a bit trickier and the eye rolls were replaced with furrowed brows. "To work", said one before another, who will no doubt go far in life, responded, "So you can count your money."

Good answers but wouldn't it be nice if we held education in higher esteem? We want the children to feel that learning is a privilege. We can learn about such a range of topics, from the galaxy we live in to the planet we call home to the body that we are given at birth. Then there's all the other people we share the planet with and their wonderful differences and similarities.

We spoke about the technological wonders of the modern age and wondered how humans - who emerged from a forest with nothing more than a well-shaped rock - can possibly have created that? "Are we more intelligent than the first Homo Sapiens?" Not really: we just have really great parents who told us the stuff they knew, who had great parents who told them the stuff they knew. A respect for ancestors retains a place in our technologically advanced world.

Oliver Jeffers' *Who We Are* is a guidebook for the new-born and provided the inspiration. Primary school, we reflected, is an opportunity to continue to feed the innate curiosity with which we are born. Not every single lesson will seem relevant and vital to every pupil but our job is to infuse the children with a life-long love of learning. Let's hope we do that this year.

KEY DATES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 9th September

After school clubs begin

Music ensembles start this week (by invitation only)

Tuesday 10th September

Y6 Secondary Transfer Meeting, 6pm, online – will also be recorded. Zoom link provided in letter this week to Y6 families

Thursday 12th September

Y5 swimming starts (separate letter sent earlier this week)

Selected Y5 choir members Thames Festival rehearsal

2024-25 TERM DATES / AUTUMN DATES

You will find a copy of our term dates for 2024-25, along with our autumn term key dates list at the end of the Hamlet Herald. You will note that we still have one INSET day in the summer term to confirm with you, we will get this sorted and communicated as soon as possible.

By providing you with these key dates in advance, we hope you are able to plan family activities around these dates, ensuring that you avoid term time for holidays etc... We also hope that you will be able to place some of our DHJS community opportunities in your diaries.

WEEKLY HOUSE POINTS

Topaz Water	Ruby Fire	Garnet Earth	Sapphire Air
Starting back next week! (New Hamleteers to be allocated their House next week)			

NOTE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

(Continued...)

Staff and children alike arrive at the end of our first full week exhausted by newness: new friends welcomed to new classes, new schools, new bedtimes, new teachers. New rooms, new children to teach, new year group curricula, new bosses with new demands.

Importantly you will have seen new faces in the office: **Amy Kenny** as Attendance and Early Help Officer and **Maggie Calamita** as Receptionist & Admin Assistant, both ably led by our own **Stephanie Bartle** as the new Office Manager.

Three new assistant headteachers have been toiling away with an ease which would deny their newness and hopefully we can introduce **Mrs Begley**, **Mrs Shreeve** and **Ms Harris** on these pages in the coming weeks. New to role but not new to school. **Helen Bansback** is our new SENDCo and has already met or arranged meetings with many of you. **Josh Kaluba** joins our permanent staff team as Teaching Assistant and **Maggie Achour** and **Marchelle Moore** have been warmly welcomed to the staffroom after trialling at the end of last term. Student teacher, **Emily Price** joins the Y3 team working with **Phuong Nguyen** in 3N.

As your new Head of School, I would finally like to thank our new Executive Head, **Claire Purcell**, for her patience and guidance as I find my feet.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS INFORMATION

Our offer ranges from art and craft to sport and we enjoy a high participation from students.

- They Start next week.
- Clubs run from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.
- Dismissal from the Village playground gate at 4.30pm.

Sport Clubs:

- If your child has PE on the same day, they should remain in their PE kit.
- If not, bring their school PE kit and change at the end of the day. Minimum requirement: a pair of trainers.

Reminders and Support:

- Children will be reminded in assemblies and by class teachers.
- Class teachers have club lists.
- A dedicated 'club runner' will assist and handle dismissals.

Payments:

- Parents will be able to pay for clubs and other items via the ParentPay system.
- No loss of places for clubs already offered due to payment delays.

THANK YOU NOTE FROM NIKKI THOMSON

Dear Parents, Carers and pupils of DHJS,

I want to say a massive THANK YOU for all the cards, gifts and kind words and, of course, the collection, given to me at the end of last term.

I've had a lovely summer buying new technology and a chair to sit in for inspiration as well as enjoying the delights of home-made baking.

I had a great 21 years at the Hamlet and now I'm ready for the next adventure.

With best wishes to you all,

Nikki Thomson

SCHOOL UNIFORM (and associated bits!)

Our uniform is available online or we have a well-stocked second-hand uniform shop run by the PTA, usually on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month, weather depending.

Our school uniform is simple and when everyone wears the combo of blue and jade, the pupils look fantastic and proud to be part of Dulwich Hamlet Junior School:

- Jade polo shirt or navy t-shirt (school branded or plain).
- Navy trousers, shorts or a skirt.
- Navy cardigan, a navy sweatshirt and the navy hoodies (school branded or plain).
- Plain socks (blue, black or grey).
- Shoes should cover the whole foot, be dark in colour and be practical for moving and running. We also allow plain black trainers for everyday wear.

PE kit

- White t-shirt (school branded or plain).
- Navy shorts and trainers.
- Tracksuit bottoms for **outside** PE in the winter months although the children do need shorts for dance and gymnastics.
- If your child chooses to wear black trainers as their 'school shoe' they will need a separate pair of trainers for PE.

Other important items

- Named water bottle.
- Jacket or coat (we rarely do inside play).
- Names in (absolutely) everything.

Other rules

- The only jewellery permitted is stud earrings and a watch (no smart watches please).
- Hair off the face and longer hair tied up for PE.

PTA – NEWS AND UPDATE

We hope you all had a great summer and welcome to our new parents and carers!

We are always around for a chat over a coffee if you would like to know more about being involved in the PTA or come along to our AGM on 26th September (details below).

The PTA currently needs help with the following:

A PTA co-chair to work alongside Georgie Pelsler and the rest of the lovely Trustees and committee members. Ideally this will be a parent who will have a child in either Year 4 or 5 (but happy to consider Year 3 parents too!). The commitment is around 6 hours a week depending on upcoming events, and it's a very interesting, (important – Mrs Purcell added that in!) and rewarding role.

An event organiser for the Diwali celebration to work with a small team and arrange food and other activities for an event being planned just before half term.

If you would like to know more please contact us via dulwichhamletpta@gmail.com

Second Hand Uniform Sale:

Our amazing team runs a sale on the first and third Friday of the month (weather and volunteers permitting) where you can purchase good quality second hand uniform. The sale is beside the PTA Office near the Turney Road gate. If you require urgent items in between the sales, please contact the PTA.

Non-logo items are £1, hoodies £5, all other logo items £3.

The PTA uniform shop was absolutely 'buzzing' this morning with £580 raised – incredible! Thank you for using and supporting this parent-led opportunity.

Save the date

PTA Annual General Meeting – Thursday 26th September in Turney Hall (light refreshments and a glass of wine provided)

PTA Diwali Celebration – Thursday 17th October 3:30 – 4:30pm, Turney Playground

'LIVE KINDLY, LIVE LOUDLY': MISS PINK RUNS FOR RUBY

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Each year around 2,500 children are diagnosed with cancer in the UK and on 8th September, former DHJS teacher Suzanne Pink takes on the Great North Run in memory of former DHJS pupil Ruby Fuller.

Suzanne used to teach Ruby, who then become head girl at Charter North Dulwich. Ruby died of blood cancer in 2020, aged just 18. Her family and friends raise money for research to find better blood cancer treatments & all money raised by Suzanne will go directly to funding vital research. Thanks to research, childhood cancer survival rates have increased from 20% in the 1970s to around 80% now. Further research will help to get the survival rate higher.

If you'd like to support Suzanne, you can donate here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/suzanne-pink-greatnorthrunchallenge>





Welcome back to another musical year! The DHJS Music Department has hit the ground running, preparing for the year ahead. Any questions about music should be directed to Miss Campbell, but there is a lot to be organised so please see below for the answers to any questions you may have before contacting the school: scampbell17.210@lgflmail.org

Instrumental Lessons: If your child learned an instrument with us last year, they will have met with their tutor this week and will have another lesson next week. They will not have regular timetabled lessons for the next few weeks. You will be told when they need to have their instruments and music in.

If your child is new to the school or is on the waiting list from last year, we are making arrangements to match interested children with instruments. This will definitely take a few weeks as there are many children and factors to consider. We have introduced the Y3 children to the variety of instruments we teach here so the children may develop an interest in different ones to those you originally considered. We will be sending out digital forms to families of new children in the next few days for you to request your child begin learning an instrument. If your child is not new to the school and is not on our waiting list, please contact Miss Campbell for a link to the form.

Please note that there is a cost associated with these lessons and there is always more interest than availability, especially in certain instruments. Due to time/space restrictions, not all children will be offered an instrumental place right away. This is often disappointing for families, so please speak with your children about this being a possibility and be reassured that they will definitely get an offer as soon as we have the availability. While learning an instrument is a big part of the DHJS composition, it is absolutely NOT COMPULSORY and all of the children will still receive excellent music tuition during their curriculum lessons.

Choir started back this week with a very proud Miss Campbell and 115(!) enthusiastic voices. Choir takes place on Wednesday mornings from 8-8:45am in Turney Hall. It is open to every child, and does not need auditions, signing up or payment. We request that children arrive promptly at 8am through Village Gate so we can make the most of the sessions without disruptions. Children can dip in and out of attending choir but they must come regularly if they would like to be invited to perform in concerts. Any Y4-6 children who are interested in attending Young Voices this year will be receiving information next week about how to request tickets/merchandise as the deadlines for this are quite soon.

Ensembles will be starting up next week for most groups. If your child was in an ensemble last year, they will be welcomed back this year and we will also be inviting some new children to join. We celebrate experienced members supporting newer members as we begin to work towards the Christmas Concert (date tbc). Please note that ensembles are invite-only so watch out for paper copies of letters to return via bookbags. If your child is in Y4 or above and learns an instrument in or outside of school (having reached approximately grade 1 standard) and they would be interested in being involved in an ensemble, please let their tutor or Miss Campbell know.

Steel pans will start back for anyone who was in the summer term groups last year. Once again, this is always a popular activity so please return your slips as soon as possible, even if your child no longer wishes to continue. This makes organising the groups much easier and we will be able to see if we have availability for any new children to join the groups. If you are interested in your child being added to the waiting list, please watch out for online communications as well as paper copies in bookbags. Please note: steel pans are a Y4/5/6 activity and we also are going to continue our fabulous parent and carer group. There are still places available in this group; please email the office for a copy of the letter providing details. The adult group and Y 5&6s will work towards a performance at the PTA Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November.

Performance opportunities: The children are fortunate in that they have the opportunity to see our talented music staff perform in assemblies over the first few weeks. It is such a treat to be able to appreciate live music performances and it is inspiring for the children to see their tutors in their professional capacity. We will be sharing our ensemble music through concerts again this year and our Hamleteers will be offered informal opportunities to perform in front of the school as the year goes through. If you play a musical instrument and feel you would be interested in sharing that music with the children, we would love you to get in touch.

We look forward to another year of music making!

Key Dates for Autumn Term 2024

Key Dates	Events	Further Details
02.09.24	Autumn term starts	Arrive between 8.45-8.55
04.09.24	Early morning Choir starts – All welcome	8.00-8.45 Turney Hall
09.09.24	*After School Clubs Begin*	15.25-16.30
09.09.24	Music Ensembles start this week (by invitation only)	Various times – lunchtimes & after school
10.09.24	Y6 Secondary Transfer Meeting	Online meet, 18.00-19.00 (will be recorded)
15.09.24	Selected Y5 Choir members perform at the Thames Festival	The Scoop, Southbank, 13.00-14.00
16.09.24	Year Group Autumn Term Curriculum Presentations	Sent via email
16.09.24	3KS Meet the Teacher meetings	During the core day
17.09.24	3RS Meet the Teacher meetings	During the core day
19.09.24	3N Meet the Teacher meetings	During the core day
20.09.24	Y4 class to visit the Dulwich Picture Gallery	Morning visit
23.09.24	2 Y4 classes <i>Animal Classification</i> workshops at The Horniman Museum	Full day visit
25.09.24	3KS Parent & Carer Café	Burbage 08:45-09:30
26.09.24	Y4 class <i>Animal Classification</i> workshop at The Horniman Museum	Full day visit
26.09.24	PTA AGM – please come along and get involved!	Turney Hall 19:00-20:00
27.09.24	Macmillan Coffee Morning – come & support this incredible charity	Village Playground 08.00-09.00
27.09.24	Y3 visit to Horton Kirby	09.00-ETA 15.30
27.09.24	Y4 class to visit the Dulwich Picture Gallery	Morning visit
1.10.24	Y4 class to visit the Dulwich Picture Gallery	Morning visit
02.10.24	3RS Parent & Carer Café	Burbage 08:45-09:30
03.10.24	Bring your parents to Maths Lesson	9:00-9:30am
04.10.24	New Parent Tour	09:00-10:00 (booking via school office)
07.10.24	Y4 to watch performance of Annie Inr at The Charter School North	Afternoon session
08.10.24	Individual and sibling (DHJS only) photos	Throughout the day
09.10.24	6TS Class Assembly (Parents invited)	Turney Hall 09.05-9.25
10.10.24	3N Parent & Carer Café	Burbage 08:45-09:30
10.10.24	Y6 visit to Horton Kirby	09.00-ETA 15.30
10.10.24	Y3/4 talk from the Police: <i>Clever Never Goes</i>	Morning session
14.10.24	5B visit to Black Cultural Archives	Afternoon visit
15.10.24	5A visit to Black Cultural Archives	Afternoon visit
16.10.24	5F visit to Black Cultural Archives	Morning visit
16.10.24	6O Class Assembly (Parents invited)	Turney Hall 09.05-9.25
16.10.24	Y5 talk from the Police: <i>Personal Safety</i>	Morning session
17.10.24	Y6 talk from the Police: <i>Social Media</i>	Morning session
17.10.24	PTA Diwali Celebration	Turney Playground 15.30-16.30
18.10.24	House Captains host: 'Hamlet's Got Talent!'	pm. Turney Hall
	21.10.24 HALF TERM HOLIDAYS 01.11.24	
TBC Nov	Y3 Classes to Black Cultural Archives	Morning visit
04.11.24	6O visit to Black Cultural Archives	Morning visit
05.11.24	6G visit to Black Cultural Archives	Morning visit
06.11.24	6TS visit to Black Cultural Archives	Morning visit
06.11.24	Parent Cafe: New Parents to DHJS this year, not via DVIS	Burbage – 08.45-09.30
08.11.24	Open View Education <i>Anti-Bullying</i> show & workshops (Y3/4/5)	Throughout the day
08.11.24	New Parent Tour	09.00-10.00 (booking via school office)
w/c 11.11.24	Anti-Bullying Week: 'Make a noise about bullying'	Various activities throughout week
11.11.24	DHJS Marks Remembrance	Turney playground
12.11.24	<i>Odd Socks Day</i> – part of Anti-Bullying Week	Wear odd socks to school!
12.11.24	Y6 <i>Macbeth</i> workshops	Morning session
13.11.24	6G Class Assembly (Parents invited)	Turney Hall 09.05-9.25
15.11.24	Flu immunisations – whole school	School nursing team – throughout the day
20.11.24	Open Classroom – come and see your children's work!	15.25-16.15
21.11.24	Open Classroom – come and see your children's work!	08.25-08.55
30.11.24	PTA Christmas Fair	12.30-15.00
02.12-20.12.24	Parent and Carer Teacher Conferences	Various times via Google Meet
03.12.24	2 x Y5 class visit to The Ragged School	All day visit
04.12.24	1 x Y5 class visit to The Ragged School	All day visit

06.12.24	New Parent Tour	09:00-10:00 (booking via school office)
10.12.24	Whole School Christmas Celebration at St. Barnabas Church	X2 Performances – 10.00 & 14.00
13.12.24 (tbc)	Christmas lunch	All year groups
13.12.24	Panto	Morning, whole school
13.12.24 (tbc)	PTA Christmas Cake Sale	15.25 Village playground
tbc	Christmas Concert at JAGs – all music ensembles performing	19.00-20.30
18.12.24	Y4 & Y5 Christmas Parties	13.30-15.15
19.12.24 (tbc)	Y3 & Y6 Christmas Parties	13.30-15.15
20.12.24	Last day of term	13.25 last registration



Dulwich Hamlet Junior School

SCHOOL TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2024-2025

Autumn term 2024

(STAFF INSET DAYS: Thursday 29 August and Friday 30 August)

Term starts: Monday 2 September 2024 - Friday 18 October 2024

Half Term: Monday 21 October 2024 - Friday 1 November 2024

Term starts: Monday 4 November 2024 - Friday 20 December 2024

Spring term 2025

(STAFF INSET DAY: Monday 6 January)

Term starts: Tuesday 7 January 2025 - Friday 14 February 2025

Half Term: Monday 17 February 2025 - Friday 21 February 2025

Term starts: Monday 24 February 2025 - Friday 4 April 2025

Summer term 2025

Term starts: Tuesday 22 April 2025 - Friday 23 May 2025

Half Term: Monday 26 May 2025 - Friday 30 May 2025

Term starts: Monday 2 June 2025 - Wednesday 23 July 2025

(STAFF INSET DAYS: Monday 30 June + 1 tbc)

Public Holidays

- **Christmas Day Holiday to be taken on:** Wednesday 25 December 2024
- **Boxing Day Holiday to be taken on:** Thursday 26 December 2024
- **New Year's Holiday to be taken on:** Wednesday 1 January 2025
- **Good Friday:** Friday 18 April 2025
- **Easter Monday:** Monday 21 April 2025
- **May Day Bank Holiday:** Monday 5 May 2025
- **Spring Bank Holiday:** Monday 26 May 2025
- **Summer Bank Holiday:** Monday 25 August 2025

[WEEKLY MENU] Week 2



Week Commencing: Mon 9th Sept - Mon 30th Sept - Mon 4th Nov - Mon 25th Nov - Mon 16th Dec

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Dish of the Day	Butchers Sausage & New Potatoes with Gravy (G, SO, SU)	Veggie Supreme Pizza (G, MK)	Beef Lasagne (E*, G, MK, SO*)	Jamaican Sweet Potato, Chickpea & Coconut Curry (CE, G*)	Battered Fish & Chips (F, G)
Vegetarian Dish of the Day	Veggie Sausage & New Potatoes with Gravy (G)	Margherita Pizza (G, MK)	Roasted Squash & Root Vegetable Lasagne (E*, G, MK)	Lentil Dhal (CE, G)	Veggie Sausage Roll (G, MK*)
Vegetable Choice	Peas & Broccoli	Seasoned Potato Wedges & Baked Beans	Rustic Roast Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables	Green Beans & Cauliflower	Beans or Peas
Dessert of the Day	Honey & Raisin Flapjack (G)	Toffee Pear Crumble (G, MK)	Classic Jam Sponge & Custard (E, G, MK, SO*, SU)	Apple Pie & Custard (G, MK)	Chocolate Banana Cake with Chocolate Sauce (E, G, MK)
Jacket Potato Bar	See Board for Details	See Board for Details	See Board for Details	See Board for Details	See Board for Details
Cold Selection	Daily Salad Bar, Homemade Bread (E*, G, MK, SO), Selection of Fresh Fruit, Jelly and Yoghurt				



Allergens:

Dulwich Hamlet Junior School

CE = Celery, CR = Crustacean, E = Eggs, F = Fish, G = Cereals Containing Gluten, L = Lupin, MK = Milk, MO = Molluscs, MU = Mustard, N = Nuts, P = Peanuts, SO = Soya, SU = Sulphur, SE = Sesame Seeds
* = May Contain