

# Thank you and see you in September!

(except Year 6 – good luck!)

## **July Newsletter 2020**

I don't know what to say except a huge thank you to everyone.

Never did any of us consider this as a possibility or ending a school year like this yet here we are. I am looking forward to September and seeing everyone back – I am sure many of you have grown and changed.

What has been lovely is to see the creativity and imagination that has happened through home-learning and everyday there are things on Kidblog that make me smile and laugh. So, thank you and well done on your resilience.

Hopefully, parents, we can take the teaching from here! But thank you for all your hard work and dedication – we know it is not easy and we are trained!

September will be another new adventure and I have been working hard on ensuring that we can deliver everything as close to normal in a safe environment. Information will be coming out shortly and will be updated before we return with any changes that may come.

### **Data**

This year, despite our hard work, we are unable to show off our school through further improved Sats results. We were on track to improve on last year's data and would like to thank our Year 6 teachers and children.

2021 Sats are set to go ahead as normal in May and it will be interesting to see the national outcomes and the effect that lockdown has had.

### **Attendance**

For our own knowledge and to support children effectively we have been tracking their attendance in school and on Kidblog.

As you are all aware attendance is important to us as it ensures children are getting the full education they deserve but also allows us to offer support if needed.

Before lockdown our whole school attendance was around 97%. Since we re-opened on 1<sup>st</sup> June the attendance for children online and in school, completing learning everyday, has been 73%, with others doing as much as they can when they can. Many have worked around issues of device sharing and parents working from home and just the sheer length of time at home, which we know hasn't always been easy. Well done to everyone!

### **Kidblog**

Kidblog will remain open over summer. Feel free to go back over anything or attempt anything you may have missed in readiness for September.

### **RSE**

Thank you to all those who took part in RSE at home and in school. It is important to us that children have a good understanding of their body, especially as they may be going through changes during their time at the Junior school. We want them to be confident in themselves and aware of the normality of changes.

### **Maternity cover**

As you are aware I will be going on maternity leave around the start of November to have a baby girl. The Governors have been in discussion with the Local Authority and Diocese to ensure that the school's leadership is strong and improvements continue.

Any decision made will be in the best interest of the school and its pupils. As soon as it is finalised the interim Headteacher will be introduced and a handover will happen so that the school continues on its journey to excellence.

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## End of year reports

Reports have been delivered and collected over the last week and by the end of this week everyone should have their end of year report. If, for any reason, you have not received it by the end of Friday please email us so that we can ensure it gets to you.

I hope you understand that this may not be a true reflection of your child's ability currently due to lockdown but it will give everyone a good starting point for September and a basis for an open discussion during parents evening.

In September we will be using informal assessments to understand accurately where your child is and ensure the catch up or challenge is in place, quickly, to support further progression in their learning.

## PTA

If next year you think you could help and support the PTA, it doesn't have to be a regular commitment, please get in contact with them [dittonjuniorspta@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dittonjuniorspta@hotmail.co.uk)

I am sure next year will be very different to any other year and we will have to think carefully about events and fundraising so all ideas and support will be welcome.

## Mental Health

This is a difficult time for all, especially in terms of mental health, so I just wanted to share some important numbers and websites

Child line – 0800 1111

Samaritans - 116123

Kent community Health NHS Foundation -

<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/one-you-kent/>

Live well - <https://livewellkent.org.uk/>

## Bereavement

During these difficult times many families will experience or know of someone who has sadly passed. If you are concerned about how your child is

dealing with this please contact us through the school office – 01732 843446 so that we can put you in touch with a service that may be able to support you further.

## Year 6

Finally I would like to say a huge goodbye and good luck to Year 6. I have known them since they were Year 3 and they have been on this journey with me throughout their time at Ditton Junior School. I wish them all well in their new schools and hope to hear how well they are doing in their futures.

## Summer

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer. Take care and relax.

## Prayer

Loving God,

We pray for all children as they prepare for a new season in their lives.

As they start our school for the first time – give them joy in new experiences.

As they move to new classes – give them confidence in growing friendships.

As they move to new schools – give them strength in their growing independence

And for all the teachers, assistants, helpers, carers and volunteers who teach and nurture our children and young people,

We ask for your blessing, your joy, your wisdom and your patience as they re-charge their batteries over the summer break, ready for the new term!

We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen.