



10 September 2020

Dear Parents,

The exuberance of the start of a new school year is still with us. It is so encouraging to see how pleased the children are to be in school, to see their classmates and teachers, and to engage with their learning.

Year 1 Pearls

The Year 1 Pearls have created self-portraits. They used mirrors to look carefully at the shape of their faces, where their facial features are located and the colour of their eyes and hair. Using a mixture of pencil, paint and collage, they created these masterpieces!



Year 4 Emeralds – Relationship Time

The pupils in Year Four were so inspired by our memory verse this week that we decided to investigate the beauty of God's creation in our school garden. There, we created beautiful jewellery from the pretty and perfect forms found in nature. What a lovely way to start our studies this year and a great reminder to stop sometimes and 'smell the roses'.



Covid-19 Updates

At this time we are all aware that as the Covid-19 situation is changing, Government measures are also changing. We are constantly monitoring the advice given and will be adapting any of our practices, as necessary.

We are entering the time of year where colds and sore throats often abound, and when children are poorly parents may worry, "Is it Covid-19?" It might be helpful to restate the symptoms which could be indicative of Coronavirus, and what to do if your child displays these symptoms:

The main symptoms to look out for are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to an individual's sense of smell or taste

If these symptoms are present in your child, he or she should get a test for Coronavirus and not come into school. Please inform us of this situation.

For a child that is unwell with a runny nose or sore throat, you would not need to be considering a test.

If one member of your household is being tested for Covid-19, please do not send your children into school until the result comes through. If a negative result comes back for the family member, please send your child into school as usual.

If a member of your household tests positive, then all other family members must self isolate for 14 days.

In school, all our efforts are to keep your children as safe in their "bubble" as possible. This is why we have different classes coming in and leaving at different times through different doors. It is a challenge for parents with children of different ages but we greatly appreciate your understanding of the need for these measures to maintain the safety of all. We do look at whether any adaptations are possible, but health and safety is the uppermost concern and it is important that we protect our "bubbles" as much as possible.

Thank you for sending in your child wearing PE kit on PE days and school uniform on other days. We are trying to minimise what comes to and fro between home and school. Please continue to send snack/lunch/water bottle in daily, using a carrier bag that can be cleaned each night. No school back packs are needed at present. Homework/reading folders go home on Mondays and back to school on Fridays.

Thank you too, for quickly moving away from the school building once your children are in school and not clustering to chat.

Where possible, it is helpful to have only one adult per family dropping off and collecting, so that we do not take up all the space on the pavement and are considerate to passers-by.

In all these ways your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

POD (Parents of Dolphin)

I am delighted that Mrs O'Driscoll simcock.odriscoll@gmail.com and Mrs Chadwick echadwick@gmail.com will be leading POD this year. They are committed to engaging the school community as much as possible and although our usual array of POD events may not be possible, are already considering what we may be able to do,

albeit in a different format. Many thanks also go to the POD reps in each year group. Although whole class parent get-togethers cannot take place, other possibilities are being explored.

School Events

This year we will be emailing parents with “The year ahead” documents from the class teachers for each year group, in lieu of our Launch event. This will help to keep parents informed about how the year will unfold for their children.

We intend to hold “remote” interviews for parents with class teachers this term, as we cannot invite you into school for our usual parent meetings. Harvest donations may be online – more information to follow.

Our Christmas celebration will also have to take a different form and it is most likely that in place of an actual Nativity and Carol Service, this will move online.

Meetings via Zoom will be held next week with Year 6 parents regarding secondary school choices the following week with Year 5 parents who will receive sign up details tomorrow.

Calendar Note

Reminder for Yr4 – Yr6 parents Remote Get Ready is on Friday 18 September.

Parent Portal Password

The parent portal password on our website will be updated to **Vision2021** on Friday morning.

Acceptable Use IT Agreement

Each year, in September we take time to review our acceptable use agreement with the pupils. This sets out the rules that enable everyone at Dolphin to be safe, fair and respectful when using technology. In ordinary times, we would have you, the parents, join with your children in signing these documents. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, our teachers will take the time to review the agreement with your children who will sign that they agree to follow the rules. We have appended the Lower and Upper School agreements at the end of this letter for your reference.

Open Day

The Laurels’ School Open Day will be on Saturday 19 September. They are pleased to be able to reopen their doors to visiting families; however, with social distancing measures in place, it is essential that all visitors register online by clicking on the following link <https://laurels.webfi.re/>

Pesto

We have had some queries about pesto in the school lunches. Although we are a nut free school, pine nuts are not, by definition, a nut and, in most cases, not an allergen. However, due to some inconclusive studies on pine nuts and nut allergies we are asking pupils in Year 1, 5 and 6 not to bring in lunches with pesto to protect pupils in those classes with allergies.

School Photographer

We will have a professional photographer joining us at school on 22 September to take some photographs of life at Dolphin. We would be grateful if your children could come to school that day looking sharp, with correct uniform, shoes polished and hair tidily coiffured.

With best wishes

N. S. Baldwin

Mrs N S Baldwin
Principal