



24 September 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been a privilege and delight to meet with our Year 6 and Year 5 parents to discuss secondary school options, through individual Zoom meetings over the last two weeks. Together, we have been able to consider where each child will best flourish, after Dolphin. To help parents make their decisions we look at the individual strengths of each child, and determine the environment which will best help them to be confident, pro-active learners, excited about the new challenges and opportunities ahead and ultimately thrive.

As you will see, there have been many instances this week where the children have shone in their learning, and as their confidence grows, so does their joy and enthusiasm to learn more.

### **Year 1 Pearls**

In Year 1, Pearls have been learning about Our Local Community. We looked at a map and found Dolphin School, and then wrote a list of all the wonderful people who work here, thinking about how they help us in different ways. We came up with questions to ask Mrs Baldwin about her role as Principal, and then we interviewed her! We learnt a lot and really enjoyed our special visit.



## Year 2 Sapphires

Last week Year 2 were very lucky to be visited by Bob, the Man on the Moon. The children spent time getting to know Bob and asked him lots of questions. This year we learned that Bob can do seventy-eight backflips in a row when he is entertaining the space tourists! He can do so many on the moon because of the lack of gravity – sadly he cannot do this many on earth.



## Year 4 Emeralds

In order to work scientifically, Year 4 learnt to classify last week through the use and creation of branching trees. Our super sorters began classifying plants and animals first before getting stuck into the really serious stuff. Here you can see how clever they were, making and testing their branching trees for a selection of delectable Dolly mixtures. Top marks for restraint, Emeralds!



## Poetry Week



After the success of our debut 'Poetry Week 2019', we are determined to run it again this year, albeit differently to last year given our restrictions. This year, National Poetry Day is on Thursday 1 October so the children and teachers will start preparing for it very soon.

Your child(ren) have been set a challenge to choose a poem (either from a book, online or one of their own) on the theme of **vision**. This theme is very much open to interpretation and can be reflected in a myriad of ways. How fitting that it matches our Dolphin theme for the year!

Every child from Reception to Year 6 will then perform their chosen (learnt) poem to their class on Wednesday 30 September and the children in the class will vote for the most engaging performance.

We will be focusing on various aspects of Poetry during English lessons, but we would be most grateful for any support you can offer at home in both helping your child choose a suitable poem, and in encouraging them to learn it and practise performing it, ready for next Wednesday's class recital.

Below are a few links to various poetry websites which you may wish to use, in addition to or instead of, any poetry books you may have at home:

<https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/poems/poems/>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/children>

<https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/>

When the children perform their poem, we will be looking for (and they will be aiming for) the following:

- A clear voice which can be heard
- Expression
- Movement or Gesture
- Varying pace
- Clear understanding of the meaning of the poem
- Confidence
- Eye contact with the audience
- Following the rhythm where needed
- Engaging the audience in the performance
- Use of extra touches to make it memorable and entertaining

We look forward to the poetic delights that next week will bring!

### **Individual Photographs**

We will have a (COVID safe) school photographer coming into school for **individual school photos** on Monday 12 October. On that day, please ensure that your child(ren) arrive in their school uniform, hair coiffured and smiles sparkling. If pupils have PE on that day, the PE teachers will plan their lessons taking into account that pupils will be wearing school uniform (they will not need to change into PE kits at school). For this day only, the pupils can wear their school blazers.

Due to COVID-19 regulations we will not be able to take photos of siblings together. However, sibling photos will be created by digitally combining individual shots.

### **Survey Feedback**

We were grateful that many of you took the time to feed back on our Remote Learning Provision during the Summer Term last year. We had 94 responses to the questionnaire, giving us a comprehensive overview of how families felt about the offering. This feedback will be helpful in informing our decisions on how we will approach our remote offering should we, at any point, need to return to lockdown. See the attached document for the highlights.

### **Request for Absence**

To help make the process of requesting absences easier, we have added a digital **Request for Absence Form** to our website. It can be found in the parent section of the website. A small reminder that we have changed the password for the parent portal to: Vision2021

### **Nasal Flu Vaccination**

This year, nasal flu vaccinations are being offered by the NHS to all pupils from Reception to Year 6 on **Monday 9 November** at Dolphin School. Whether or not you wish your child to be immunised at school, you are requested still to complete the form which will be sent home with your child tomorrow. Then, please return the form to school in the envelope provided by **Friday 2 October**. Collection boxes for these forms will be at each entrance every morning next week.

If your child routinely receives a flu spray/injection annually at your GP, they should continue to do so and therefore do not need to have the nasal flu vaccination in school.

Please would you make sure that you notify the school, on the day, if your child is unwell and you do not wish your child to be immunised.

If your child is asthmatic you will need to notify the school on the morning of 9 November if there has been a change to their regular medication, or if they have been wheezy within the last 72 hours.

Please note that nurses will be wearing PPE which includes facemasks and visors, as well as their uniform, when they visit school on Monday 9 November to administer the nasal flu vaccinations.

**Medical Information**

If there has been any change to the medical information about your child which the school holds, please contact Mrs Saunders [receptionist@dolphinschool.org.uk](mailto:receptionist@dolphinschool.org.uk) to update this information.

With best wishes

*N. S. Baldwin*

**Mrs N S Baldwin**  
**Principal**