



8 October 2020

Dear Parents,

Although the autumn drizzle has arrived, it has not dampened spirits at Dolphin. It is a constant delight to see how adaptable and resilient our children are. They are so eager to come to school and engage enthusiastically in their learning. Thanks must go to our staff who, in spite of the restrictive measures in place, create brilliant opportunities each day for children to feel inspired, challenged and encouraged. Enjoy reading about some of the children's responses, later in the newsletter.

Outdoor Parents' Prayers: 9 October

If you would like to attend tomorrow's experimental prayer meeting on Wandsworth Common at 09:10, please email Mrs Saunders today at receptionist@dolphinschool.org.uk

Individual Photos

We will be having individual photos taken on the morning of **Monday 12 October**. Please ensure that your children arrive at school, looking sharp, wearing their school uniform and (on this day only) their school blazer. We will be following COVID-safe guidelines.

Wandsworth Foodbank – Harvest Invitation

On Tuesday **13 October**, pupils are invited to bring contributions to school for the Wandsworth Foodbank. Donations will not be brought into the school building, but at morning drop-off there will be an outdoor area demarcated for the items. Some of our wonderful parents who are also Foodbank stalwarts, will deliver our contributions to the Foodbank warehouse.

Please note that this time slot 08:30 – 09:00, is the only time that donations can be made in kind. Please refer to the list of suitable items below.

- Can openers
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned fish

- Biscuits
- Ketchup
- Chocolate
- Shower gel
- Packet soup (not tins)
- Noodles

Alternatively, you may prefer to make a cash donation to the Foodbank by [donating online](#) . Whichever way you give, you would be helping to ensure that the Foodbank would have enough food to meet rising local need in winter.

Request for Absence form

We have put a **Request for Absence** form on the parent section of the website for your convenience. Please use it on the occasion that you would like to request an absence for your child at Dolphin School. It can be accessed here: www.dolphinschool.org.uk/request-for-absence-form/

Uniform

As the weather changes, we are aware of some of the corresponding challenges presented, especially with uniform and shoes. We are putting together a plan for COVID safe winter practices for after the half term break. We will share these details in the newsletter next Thursday.

Dolphin School Umbrellas

'We've got you covered!'

The weather is turning; it's a little colder and frequently wetter. Fortunately, all hope is not lost, as we have just the solution for our beloved families. New for 2020, following consultation with POD reps, we would like to invite all of our families to ward off the elements with one of our snappy new "Something Brilliant" Dolphin golf umbrellas. These are perfect for those wet school drop offs, long walks on the common, shopping on the Northcote Road or while cheering on your child at sporting fixtures (when they return!?!). These stunning new automatic Golf umbrellas will not only keep you dry, but will underscore your refined sense of style. We will need to order a minimum number of umbrellas, so if you would like to purchase one at the cost of £25, please pre-order by clicking on the link below.





DOLPHIN SCHOOL

Please pre-order your umbrella by clicking [here](#).

Framed Art

Due to the lockdown last March, our Spring Art Show was unable to go ahead as planned. Parents have asked if it was still possible to purchase their child's framed art. Happily, we have been able to arrange for their work to be framed for those families who wish to buy their child's finished piece. If you would like to purchase your child's framed art, please follow the two steps below to pay the framer and to inform Mrs Saunders.

1. Pay via bank transfer (details below)

C Mulholland

HSBC

45382564

40-09-00

2. Email Mrs Saunders (receptionist@dolphinschool.org.uk). Include:

- Confirmation that you would like to purchase the framed art
- Child(ren)'s name
- Class
- Confirmation of payment

Please complete this by **Friday 16 October**.

Message from POD re Christmas Cards

POD are very keen to do as many of our usual school based activities as possible and so plan to organise Christmas Cards again this year, with some modifications. The children will be sent home tomorrow with the order forms which include detailed instructions about designing and ordering cards. Please look after these carefully. Children can design the cards with a drawing or artwork of their choice bearing in mind the instructions in the order form and then parents order the cards and any other products online as usual.

The deadline for ordering online is **midnight on 4 November**. The order form and artwork must be returned to school by no later than **drop off on Tuesday 3 November**. We need to return the forms to the company we work with, adhering to a very strict deadline, and if orders or forms are not returned on time, they cannot be processed. We will have a drop off box at each school entrance (as per the flu jab forms) for forms and artwork on Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 November. Please note these timings very carefully. The finished products will be returned to school and sent home with the children by early December in good time for posting before Christmas!

Year 1 Pearls

Year 1 wrote some fantastic autumn poems as part of Poetry Week. We began by collecting a range of autumn objects from Wandsworth Common, such as pine cones, acorns and colourful leaves. We learnt about adjectives, and thoughtfully described the objects we had collected. We had a go at using similes to compare the objects to other things. We put all our wonderful ideas together to create poems titled 'On The Ground'.

<p>On the Ground On the ground Five orange pumpkins As big as rocks Autumn is here</p> <p>On the ground Four brown conkers As shiny as diamonds Autumn is here</p> <p>On the ground Three crunchy leaves As crispy as crisps Autumn is here</p> <p>On the ground Two sticky cobwebs As silky as scarves Autumn is here</p> <p>On the ground One grey squirrel As busy as a bee Autumn is here By Otto</p>	<p>On the Ground On the ground Five prickly pine cones As spiky as porcupines Autumn is here</p> <p>On the ground Four scrunchy leaves As scrunchy as paper Autumn is here</p> <p>On the ground Three shiny conkers As round as balls Autumn is here</p> <p>On the ground Two enormous pumpkins As big as a bucket Autumn is here</p> <p>On the ground One small acorn As shiny as a medal Autumn is here By Archie</p>
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Year 4 Emeralds

Our oceanographers researched different fishing methods this week and were asked to consider an argument for, or against, using a method to encourage sustainable fishing in British waters. Here you can see some partnerships debating their point of view with an opposing team. Watch out parliament, our Dolphins have something to say!





Year 5 Topaz

Year 5 started poetry week last week by considering the importance of rhyme and rhythm while studying Richard Edwards' poem, 'The Word Party'. This light-hearted poem paints an entertaining picture of how different types of words would behave at a social gathering. 5RO then put their rhyming ruminations to work to create their own versions of the poem. Mrs Oram was also highly impressed with the free verse poems the class created later in the week when given an image of a waterfall, surrounded by luscious rainforest.

The Word Party,

Fast words are in a rush,
 Shy words are made to blush,
 Bored words start to snore,
 Big words do want more,
 Happy words are always smiley,
 Slippery words are also slimey,
 Kind words give to the poor,
 Sporty words always score,
 Mean words sometimes swear,
 Fashionable words know what to wear,
 All words get some farewell posies,
 Clap! The dictionary closes.

By Stanley

The Word Party,

Naughty words try and bite,
 Shy words hide out of sight,
 Loving words carry kisses,
 Hopeful words are making wishes,
 Long words touch the ceiling,
 Old words check their hearing,
 Funky words pull funny poses,
 Snap! The dictionary closes.

By Willow

The Forest of Mysteries,

The mystical water glided towards the sharp drop,
The magical water flew down,
Down, down, down, down,
In silence, as the water flowed away in a mystical cloud.

The green dome all around was silent but sweet,
The cascade of water fell, as a rainbow of colours,
The green trees grew up, as the cascading water fell down,

I sat down and meditated,
I heard water flowing,
I felt the growing of trees,
I tasted the wonderful natural air giving life.

I saw a plane fly over but it became as silent as the forest itself,
Then the plane disappeared in a cloud of moisture,
The world became dark and quiet but the water shone through like the crystal it is.

By Zac

Coronavirus

May I ask parents to exercise prudence and heed government advice when considering holidays abroad at half term, or indeed Christmas? The government advice for educational settings about travelling during the Coronavirus pandemic was updated this week and clearly states: The FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) is advising British nationals against non-essential international travel for an indefinite period.

A period of self-isolation is now required when returning from many overseas countries. The list of countries can change at very short notice, as you will be aware. Please be alert to the possible ramifications of foreign travel. If you return from a country where restrictions require self-isolation, your child will not be able to return to school until the isolation period is over.

Thank you very much for all you are doing to support the measures we are taking in school to reduce the risk of transmission. Your good humour, flexibility and understanding are much appreciated and have certainly ensured that the children come into school in a relaxed and eager manner. At school we are constantly balancing the provision of education with ensuring the safety of pupils, families and staff.

Handwashing in school six times a day, with soap and water or sanitiser, does absorb a considerable amount of time and at present this means that our squeezed timetable does not include Spanish. We have not abandoned our love of languages and are looking at how best we can re-introduce Spanish next Half Term. Also, following our consultation with parents, teachers and pupils we have been able to plan the best provision for pupils, should an entire class have to go into lockdown. Were this to be necessary, you will be informed by email and at that point sent all the information you will need for remote learning to kick in for your child. If an individual child is having to self-isolate, work will be sent home.

It is the government's stated intention that schools would only close as a very last resort, but we are prepared, should such an eventuality occur.

I realise how much of a strain it can be for families at this difficult time and hope it is reassuring for you to know how comprehensively we are considering all COVID-related matters at school.

With best wishes

N. S. Baldwin

Mrs N S Baldwin
Principal