



Friday 4th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back!

As we begin a new academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity to say that I do hope that you all had a lovely summer and that you enjoyed the time you were able to spend with one another. Times are very different at the moment and I hope that you all managed to stay safe and well during the holidays.

It is now time to say 'Welcome Back' to the academic year 20/21 at Dunsford Community Academy! It has been lovely to welcome the children and families back to school and so heart-warming to see all of the smiley faces entering and leaving school over the last few days. I do hope that you have all found returning to school an enjoyable experience and that you now feel that you are getting to know the new members of staff. As we move forwards, I would like to impress that parental communication is of the utmost importance to us and if you ever have any questions or concerns then please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher or myself. We are all very much looking forward to this new and exciting year and moving forwards together as a school community.

Thank You

As a staff, we have felt very supported and welcome as we have returned to school this week. So many of you have sent in kind messages or have provided us with feedback and this has meant so much to us all. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and support at this time. It is very reassuring to know that you support the Dunsford team and that you are on this journey with us; we very much appreciate this!

Uniform and PE kits

Thank you for ensuring that the children have returned to school in their full school uniform with black school shoes. Please could I ask that all items of clothes are labelled to avoid any items being lost as many items look the same and it is often difficult to determine the rightful owner! Also a gentle reminder that white school tops should be tucked in at all times and hair tied back, where needed. Jewellery and nail varnish is also not permitted as part of school uniform. Thank you for your support in this.

There have been some questions about PE kits and trainers and when these should be worn. I am currently waiting for our chosen PE provider to confirm the exact days that PE will be delivered on. Once I have this information I will ensure that this is communicated to you. You will not need PE kits to begin with but trainers should be worn on the day that your child(ren) has PE.

Staff Updates

As you are aware, we have had some recent staffing changes at Dunsford alongside changes in class names. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of these changes.

Maples Class:

Maples class is our Nursery class and it is led by Miss. Farress and Mrs. Wilson. They have been working hard to make sure that the environment is both stimulating and enjoyable for the children and they have done a fantastic job of welcoming back the Nursery children who have returned so far. We are all looking forward to meeting the children who are joining us next week!

Willows Class:

Willows class is our Reception and Year 1 class and it is led by Miss. Dann. Working alongside Miss. Dann for a proportion of this year is Miss. Wakeham. Miss. Wakeham is a School Direct student and we are very proud that, within our trust, we are able to support Teacher Training alongside the All Saints Teaching School Alliance and Marjon's University. Both Miss. Dann and Miss. Wakeham have also been busy ensuring that the children have an environment full of learning opportunities and the chance to explore and play. Reception children will be returning to full days from Monday 7th September and we can't wait!

Cedars Class:

Cedars class is our Year 2/3/4 class and it is led by Miss. Holt. I know that many of you found pleasure in reading the information about Miss. Holt on Google classroom and the children have really enjoyed meeting her in person! Miss. Holt has spent time this week finding out lots about the children and ensuring that they are settled back into a school routine, happy and enjoying school. It is lovely to have them all back with us. Supporting Miss. Holt is Mrs. Jeffery and Mrs. Gray. It is brilliant to have their expertise and knowledge of Dunsford and they have been doing a fantastic job of supporting Miss. Holt as she joins our community.

Oaks Class:

Oaks class is our Year 5/6 class and it is led by Mrs. Hedger. Supporting Mrs. Hedger this year will be Mrs. Gray and we are very lucky to have such expertise teaching our older children! Mrs. Hedger has been very busy getting to know the children, planning many engaging learning opportunities for them and supporting them as they return to the routine and expectations of school. I have also been listening to them explain to me all about their



pets and animals that they care for. It has been fantastic to see them all returning to school with such enthusiasm and we are looking forward to the year ahead!

Specialist PE teaching:

This year we will continue to have specialist PE teaching. I am waiting for final confirmation regarding the teacher that will be providing this and also the designated day. Once I have this information I will ensure that you have timely communication of this.

New routines for dropping children off at the start of the day

Thank you so much for supporting us as we work to ensure that we are implementing the systems of control and safety measures within school. I know that this has been a change for us all and we are now getting used to operating in a different way. Thank you also for your support with drop off and collection times. Each of you were extremely supportive and this, again, meant so much to the team.

We will be continuing to operate in this way as we follow government guidance and the timings will remain as follows:

- Year 2-6 drop off between 8:30am - 8:40am and collection between 3:05pm - 3:15pm.
- Nursery, Reception and Year 1 drop off between 8:45am - 8:55am and collection between 3:20pm and 3:30pm.

If you have a child in Nursery attending sessions that require you to drop off or collect over lunchtime then please press the buzzer at the main gate and alert us to your presence.

Thank you also for your feedback regarding Nursery drop off on the first day. Parent feedback is important and we want to support you in any way that we can. We have acted on this feedback and now, as per my previous email, Nursery drop off and collection will be from the gate that leads to the Nursery outdoor area. If you are unsure of where to go, please ask a member of staff. Please can I also remind you that social distancing will still be important when queueing at this point.

Liaising with teaching staff

It is natural that there may be times when you feel that you need to communicate with your child's teacher. This can be difficult to do in person due to current restrictions and safety measures that have been put into place. There are a number of ways that you can still maintain that important line of communication that I would urge you to take. You may wish to email the admin account as emails will be forwarded to the relevant person. You may



also like to call the office to arrange a phone call with the teacher. In exceptional circumstances, where it is necessary and appropriate to do so, it may be that a face to face meeting is needed and we will make prior arrangements for this to ensure that we can follow safety measures at all times. We will always endeavour to do our best to support you and to be available for communication. Thank you for your support, patience and understanding.

Office Hours

Our office hours are as follows:

Monday: 8:30am - 4pm

Tuesday: 8:30am - 12:30pm

Wednesday: 8:30am - 12:30pm

Thursday: 8:30am - 12:30pm

Friday: 8:30am - 4pm

If you need to make contact outside of these times then you are welcome to leave an answerphone message or send an email to the admin account dunsford@lapsw.org and we will get back to you.

Meet the Teacher events

Usually at this time of year we would be thinking forward to our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions where you would have the opportunity to discuss the academic year ahead, the curriculum, teaching and learning, our behaviour policy and school expectations. It is not possible for these sessions to go ahead as they normally would at this time and we are currently looking at 'inventive' ways in which these could take place. We thank you for your patience and understanding and we will work to look for a solution to allow you the opportunity to have this experience in some way.

Tapestry

For those parents of Nursery and Reception children, I wanted to let you know that we are currently experiencing technical issues with Tapestry online. We are working hard to rectify this and, as soon as this is up and running, we will provide you with access details.

After School Clubs

I am in the process of organising and finalising our after school club offer. I am hoping that many of the clubs that you have enjoyed before (and that we are able to safely offer under



the current guidance) will return. Again, once I have the details of these finalised, I will be in touch with the details that you need.

Once again, thank you for embracing the changes this week that returning to school has brought. I feel very privileged to become a part of the Dunsford community and I am looking forward to working with you all. I wish you all a wonderful weekend and I hope that the sun shines for you!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Guntrip

Mrs. Guntrip
Head of Academy