

Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### End of the School Year

This will be the final newsletter of the school year.... and what a strange one it has been. I know it has been a challenging period of time for the children, for you as parents and for the staff. I would like to thank you all for welcoming me so warmly into the school community and for your continued support through what has been a difficult and unusual few months.

### Year 6 Leavers

As we reach the end of this academic year, it's time to say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils. It has been very disappointing not to be able to run our planned end of year events for our leavers, although it has been wonderful to have most of them back in school for the last four weeks!



We wish **Evie A, Joshua, Cameron, James, Evie J, Jorja, Jack, Owen, Jay, Sophie, Codey, Lottie, Keith** and **Keira** all the very best as they leave Halebank and move onto their high schools. I am sure that they will continue to bring out the best in themselves and one another as they begin the next stage of their learning journeys. Goodbye and good luck to you all!

### Transition Meetings

If your child hasn't yet returned to school, we are really looking forward to seeing you at your allotted appointment time next week. Please arrive on the school site via the green side gate (next to Class 2) **five minutes before** your appointment time. It would be ideal if your child comes to the meeting with one parent only. You will be directed to a waiting area and then called over for your meeting; we hope to conduct the meetings outdoors.

In order to maintain social distancing, please ensure that you and your child sit in the designated waiting area and that you leave the school site as soon as you can after your 10 minute appointment is finished. Please note that if you arrive late, we may not be able to accommodate you as there will be limited waiting space.

### Term Dates

As the staff will be busy with transition meetings next week, the final day of term for our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils will be **Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> July**; please remember that this is two days earlier than published. Provision for our key worker pupils will continue as planned until Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July for those families that still need support. The school will then close for the summer break and will re-open to all pupils on **Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September**.

## Arrangements for the New School Year

We are currently making plans and completing risk assessments for the return of pupils from all year groups in September, along with our new Reception starters. As some of this planning will be finalised over the summer break, I will write to you on **28<sup>th</sup> August** (the final Friday of the holidays) to confirm arrangements for the start and end of the school day, the timetabling of the school day and access to the school site. We are expecting staggered drop offs and pick-ups to run between 8.40 and 9.00 am and 2.55 and 3.15 pm respectively. We will try to organise this in family groups to enable siblings to arrive and leave at the same time. We are expecting all pupils to return full time and in their school uniforms in September; look out for details of the arrangements in the newsletter which will be emailed to you (and available on the school website) in August.

## Annual Reports

You will shortly be receiving a copy of your child's annual report. If your child is in school already, this will be sent home today. Otherwise, the report will be handed to you as part of your transition meeting with staff. Inside the report envelope, you will find a copy of the report, your child's attendance certificate for the year and a covering letter which explains the format and content of this year's written report. Fortunately, you have already had two opportunities to meet with the staff to discuss your child's achievements and progress at the autumn and spring term Parents' Evenings.

## Changes to Breakfast Club



I know that some of you rely on Breakfast Club to enable you to get to work on time and many children enjoy attending. The facility has been running for some time on a flexible basis and, if it is to continue, we will need parents to make a half termly commitment. This will enable us to provide the required staffing levels and to make sure we can plan ahead.

From September, Breakfast Club will run from **8.10 am** until **8.40 am** (after which the children will be led to their classrooms for the start of the school day). We will trial a fixed cost to the club; this will be £1 per day and will include supervision along with a drink and one breakfast item (toast or cereal). If you would like your child to attend Breakfast Club, please complete and email the attached booking form to Mrs Fenlon at [sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk](mailto:sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk) no later than 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Thank you.

## Roof Works

You may already be aware that our current (new) building is now four years old; during this time, there have been a number of issues with the school roof. This week, we received confirmation from the Department of Education (DfE) and Morgan Sindall that a reroofing project will commence on 24<sup>th</sup> August. The project will run for 10 weeks and should be completed by the end of the October half term break; it will include a full carpet replacement throughout the building. We are obviously very pleased that this project has finally been given the go ahead and it will be good to worry less about leaks and water damage. However, the project coincides with a very busy time as we are expecting all the children back in school; there will be lots for us to organise to prepare for this. By the time I write to you again at the end of August, we will have a clearer picture of how the works will have an impact on the running of the school day and access arrangements.

### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

Parents of pupils who are eligible for free school meals should receive a £90 voucher from Edenred as part of the COVID Summer Food Fund. The vouchers have been ordered and are due for delivery via email on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. If you think your child may be eligible, please have a look at [Halton Borough Council's FSM](#) application information by clicking [here](#).

### **Home Learning**

Having posted home learning activities on the school website since the end of March, the teachers will now leave you to have a break! I would like to thank the staff for all the hard work they have put in to provide a range of activities each week. Huge thanks to the children and their parents for engaging with their learning; it has been great to see so many of you emailing us with what you've been doing together. The class email addresses that you've been using to correspond with us will no longer be active after 22<sup>nd</sup> July, so do get in touch before then if you need to communicate with the staff.

### **Retirement of Miss Heather Guthrie**

Today we say goodbye to a member of our Governing Board who has served the school for nearly forty years: Miss Heather Guthrie. Miss Guthrie is well known to many of the families of Halebank including former pupils and parents. Unfortunately for us, she has decided to retire as a governor after four decades of dedication and commitment to the school. She has contributed enormously to Halebank Church of England Primary School over the years and worked as Chair of Governors from the late 1980s until 2002. Miss Guthrie is now our Vice Chair of Governors and Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee. She also holds governor roles in maths and special educational needs; she is also a wonderful bingo caller! Her contribution to the school over the years has been outstanding and her expertise and kindness will be greatly missed on the Governing Board. On behalf of the pupils, parents, staff and governors of the school, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Miss Guthrie for all she has done. We plan to mark her retirement with a special event in school; we are hopeful that this will take place in the autumn term.

### **Thank You**

As the academic year draws to a close, I'd like to thank you all again for your continued support through the year. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with your wonderful children; it will be lovely to have them all back with us again in September. Stay safe and look after yourselves over the summer break.

Yours sincerely

  
Mr R Harley