

City of Rochester School Newsletter



Summer 2 – Academic Year 2020-2021

Introduction from the Head

This term has been another busy one. Thank you to those parents who take part in our Parental Advisory Group and for your contributions as to how we can be an even better school. Our coffee mornings are just taking off and I hope that those of you who do attend find this beneficial. We will be sending out a parental calendar before the beginning of the academic year with all key dates to ensure you are all well informed of key events happening in school.

Some of your children will be moving classes next year and we will do all we can to ensure they are settled and continue to thrive. The first week back will be focussed on nurture and wellbeing and all those children who are moving class will be able to do so during this first week, with a careful transition.

We have some staff leaving us – these being: Nick (PE/Science teacher), Paul (Cookery/Maths teacher), Adam (Learning Support) and Gilly (Music). We wish them all the very best for the future. At the same time, we welcome a number of new teaching staff to our team which I look forward to introducing to you in due course, but in summary:

- Tola Awe will be our new Science Teacher
- Tony Heathfield will be our new English Teacher
- Sian Hayre will be a new teacher for our new group of year 7s
- Jo D'Amiral will be our new Music Teacher
- Tim Force who is an existing member of staff will be taking over PE
- Katie Travevs will be a new teacher for a group of year 7's

Our Parents Evening has had to be another virtual one, but hopefully come the new academic year, the pandemic will be under control and we can move to having you all back in school for these events and for us to be able to really showcase what your children achieve at City of Rochester School.

We are still working on plans for our Experiential Curriculum for the next academic year (this has been hindered due to COVID), and we will share this with you before the beginning of term.

As you know, we had a recent Ofsted Inspection and a Local Authority Inspection (all in the same week!). I am very much looking forward to sharing the outcome of these visits as soon as the reports have been published.

We have sent home Lateral Flow Tests and I would ask that parents test their child (year 7 and above), prior to returning to school on the 6th September '21. We will not continue to test in school from the new academic year, unless in exceptional circumstances or if Government guidance changes.

We have seven new pupils joining us in September coming into Year 7 and I know that all

Key Dates

Term 6:
07/06/21-
16/07/21

**Summer
Holidays:**
19/07/21-
03/09/21

Term 1:
06/09/21-
21/10/21

Half Term:
25/10/21-
05/11/21

Term 2:
08/11/21-
15/12/21

**Christmas
Break:**
16/12/21-
04/01/22

Bank Holidays:
30/08/21
27/12/21
28/12/21
03/01/22



our pupils will welcome these new starters.

Please can I emphasise the need for your child to attend school in their uniform. May I wish you and your family a wonderful summer break. I thank you all for your continued support of the school and I cannot begin to convey how very special all of our children are. Seeing our children flourish and thrive in school and make progress makes it a very special place to work.



We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school on September 6th 2021.

Alicja Emmett – Headteacher

Curriculum News:

1. Experiential Curriculum Term 6

Some pupils have been learning how to ride a bike at Cyclopark and as a result have learned some very important life skills. Some children have attended Curly’s Farm and have been learning about animal care, breeds of animals, where their food comes from and working safely on the farm. Anna Outdoors has also been in place for some pupils and during these sessions pupils have been completing Science and Art lessons. Pupils have been learning to identify different types of animals and their habitats, describing different animals, and also working alongside our Art teacher Holly to create natural art in the environment at the beautiful Ranscombe Farm Reserve.





2. Motor Vehicle Maintenance

We are setting up a partnership with Nacro College for pupils in the upper school to study an IMI Motor Vehicle Maintenance qualification. Pupils attended a trial day this week and it was very successful. This programme will start in September '21.



3. Equality and Diversity Calendar

This term we have marked a number of key events from our calendar including:

World Music Day, British Values Day & Youth Skills Day

These events were combined and celebrated in a sunny, end of term CoRFest celebration outdoors. Activities included caricature drawing, outdoor games, penalty shoot-outs, hook the duck, festival hairstyles, a lemonade stand and the very popular 'soak the teacher' stocks. Our students' talents in music were the highlight of the afternoon with performances from many.



Our Partners:

We want to extend a huge thank you to our external partners – these being:

- White Rocks Farm
- Squirrels Riding School
- Curly's Farm
- Anna Outdoors
- Challenger and Tiger Troop



Our partners really support our curriculum offer for pupils and help them make coming to school a much broader and richer experience. We could not be as successful as we are without you.



Kent School Games:

Pupils from Earth, Mercury and Pluto classes attended the Kent School Games and competed with local schools in the area. The pupils completed a range of fun sporting activities that were developing their fundamental movement skills.



The pupils had a great time, and all received a medal to show off their achievements!

We also received the below email –



'Hi all,

I just wanted to thank you all for bringing your children along to the Learning and Discovery Festival yesterday. It was so nice to see children out enjoying themselves and taking part in PE and sport.

Thank you for being brave and taking the lead as I know how hard it is to take the first steps to doing more with the children with so many government COVID guidelines to follow!

Hope to see you all again at future events.

Wendy'



Kent Challenger Games:

A group of children from primary proudly represented the school in the Kent Challenger Games for the first time in the school's history. The children competed various challenges where they had to work as a team to complete the tasks. Out of the 15 schools that competed we finished a respectful 6th. Well done to everyone who took part!

Parent Thank You's:



'Just a quick message, I'd like to thank you and the whole team for the care and compassion you show towards K and how much K has enjoyed his time so far working with you all...'

'Thank you for your time this afternoon. T is really excited about his future now...'

'I have seen such a big change in L over the past few months and he is so much happier and is enjoying the responsibility he has within the school...'

'Thank you so much! Absolutely amazing I could cry happy tears!! I was defeated and somehow you fixed the problem. A is also so happy he gave me a hug!'

'Thank you again for your support. J received her 'Super Work' postcard today and was very surprised. I would like to say that the school and all its staff really have exceeded my expectations!'

Safe over Summer:

Nathan Goodall has produced a local guide to activities that you may be interested in attending with your child over the summer break. I hope you find this useful. Thank you to Nathan for pulling this information together. A reminder to parents that you will still receive the National Online Safety Newsletter for advice and guidance as to how to keep your child safe online. In addition, the school Safeguarding telephone number is: 07947-144-640 and I would urge all parents to call us if you have any concerns over the summer break.

