



# Fleet Primary School

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## End of Year & September Updates

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15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the last few days of this academic year I wanted to write and give you a few updates on school as we look ahead to the summer and the new academic year starting in September.

### Thank you...

First of all I'd like to thank each and every family for your support and encouraging words over this very difficult year. We, like you, have been frustrated by many of the rules and restrictions in place, which often don't make a lot of sense or seem contradictory, but on the whole you have helped us to follow them. As I write this letter (frantically looking for wood to touch to avoid jinxing my words!) we have been incredibly lucky in how many times we have had to close bubbles. When I chat with my head teacher colleagues from across Camden many schools, especially recently, have not been so lucky with many more classes out as well as some class bubbles being closed multiple times. While there is a certain amount of luck involved in this, I also want to commend my staff and the children, as well as you, our families, for sticking to the guidance and ensuring we have been able to remain open as much as we have.

I'd also like to say a special thank you and good luck to all our Year 6 children and families leaving us this summer to embark on their Secondary School adventure. You have been an amazing group to watch grow and develop as you have gone through school and risen to all the challenges you have faced these last couple of disrupted years.

Also, good luck to those families in Nursery who have not got places in our Reception and are joining new schools. I wish you luck and hope the transition goes well for your children.

Finally, good luck to the families we have who are moving house/school over the summer. Thank you for your trust and support while you have been with us. I am sure that your transition to your new house/schools will go well.

### Finish Times for Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July:

Class	Finish Time on 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Class	Finish Time on 22 <sup>nd</sup> July
Reception	1.45pm	Year 4	1.30pm
Year 1	1.30pm	Year 5	2pm
Year 2	2pm	Year 6	1.45pm
Year 3	2.15pm		

Looking ahead to the end of term, as usual we finish early on the last day which is next Thursday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> July (Wednesday for Nursery). The table to the right lists the finish times for each class. In the case of siblings, the one finishing earliest can wait in the hall until the oldest sibling finishes so that they can be collected together as usual.

### Staff Leaving:

As we reach the end of the year we are preparing to say goodbye to two fantastic members of the Fleet Staff Team. Annie, who has been part of the team here for more than 20 years has decided it is time for her

to retire. I would like to thank Annie for all her hard work and dedication to the many children and families who have passed through her care. We also say goodbye to Raluca. While she may not have been here as long as Annie, in the time she has been with us she has proved herself to be a dedicated, reliable and valued member of staff. Raluca is leaving the UK and we wish her well on her next adventure.

**Governors:**

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor – big thank you to Hannah for all her hard work up to this point. We will be asking for parents to put themselves forward in the new term to fill this vacancy. I’d also like to say a huge thank you to Janet Guthrie, who has been a Community Governor and Vice Chair of the Governing Board. She has been a Governor at Fleet for over 20 years and a tireless advocate for the children over this time. She is stepping down from the governing board from the end of this year. Finally, a massive thank you from me personally, and on behalf of the school, to Kim Issroff. Kim has been Chair of Governors for many years and helped lead the school through changes of head, OFSTED inspections and the current pandemic. She is stepping down as chair at the end of this year but will remain a Governor. Marcus Boyland, who has been co-chairing with Kim for the last year, will be continuing as sole Chair. Thank you Marcus for your continued work and support.

If you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor or have any questions about it look out for the letter in September asking for volunteers. You can also approach me on the gate and I will do my best to answer any questions you may have (or point you in the direction of other Parent Governors who can talk to you about this important role).

**Class Teachers for September:**

In last week’s newsletter I included the list of teachers and classes for September. For your information I have included them again in the table below. Some of the teachers have subject responsibilities and/or are not in school everyday. Each teacher is also entitled to half a day of time out of class for planning, preparation and assessment time. For covering these times we will be using Rebecca Wall, Rhian Mulji and Tammy Wood. The individual covering any time the teacher has out of class will be consistent throughout the year in terms of who covers them. In the case of staff absence we will attempt to cover internally using one of these three teachers but there may be occasions where, due to other commitments, we have to have a supply teacher take the class. We try to minimise these instances as best we can to offer the children as much consistency as possible.

At the beginning of next week the children will be shown a video message from their new teacher and will be doing a piece of work to introduce themselves to their new teacher:

Class	Teacher	Class	Teacher	Class	Teacher	Class	Teacher
Nursery	Rebecca Combes & Nicola Budd	Year 1	Karen Coulter	Year 3	Sinead Costelloe	Year 5	Asha Sale
Reception	Rachel Webb	Year 2	Ruth Hanfling	Year 4	Lynley Benbetka	Year 6	Oona Matheson

**Term Dates:**

I have attached to the end of this letter the term dates for next academic year. Please note the start date for the children from Year 1-6 is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Reception and Nursery children will have their own individual start dates which have already been communicated to you (contact the office if you have not received this).

**Removal of restrictions:**

As you will have seen in the media the Government has announced the removal of the need to keep bubbles separate for the next academic year. Assuming things do not change over the summer then we will

be returning to our traditional opening/closing arrangements and welcoming parents and carers back onto site without restrictions. For those needing it a reminder of drop off and pick up arrangements are below.

### **Opening:**

8am: Breakfast club for any child who wants it (£1 per day/Free to FSM children) – let the office know

8.30am: Junior Playground opens to all children – a member of staff will be present from this time

8.45am: Bell will be rung in the playground to indicate classrooms are open – children and parents can go into class. Teacher will be there and available should you wish to pass on a quick message or ask quick question (longer or conversations requiring privacy should not happen at this time, make arrangements for proper time to talk either via phone or in person)

9am: Bell will be rung in the playground to indicate it is time to go up to class and the learning day is officially starting. Any parents in class at this time will need to leave and we would ask no parent to come up to the class at this time.

**NURSERY: Nursery drop off is 8.50am – this should give plenty time to drop older siblings either before or after**

### **End of Day:**

3.20pm: Nursery children can be collected

3.30pm: Children from Reception to Year 6 finish.

### **Entry to school:**

We have decided that we will continue to keep the gate to the junior playground open as an entrance and exit at the beginning and end of the school day. This will help ease congestion at the main school gate. So children and families can choose to enter from Fleet Road or from Agincourt Road.

### **Collection Areas:**

- Nursery – from the nursery gate at their outside area
- Reception – from the gate to their outdoor area
- Year 1 – From the door to their class by the Junior Playground
- Year 2 – From the door to their class by the ramp as you come in to the school
- Year 3-6 From the covered area at the bottom of the blocks

### **Clubs from September:**

We hope to be able to offer clubs again in the next academic year. To keep costs down (Fleet club costs are considerably less than most schools) we usually rely on staff and parents to run clubs. You will have seen my message in the newsletter the last few weeks for any volunteers from the Fleet community who are willing to run clubs. Thanks to those of you who have come forward already. We will send out a letter at the start of term once we have finalised our offer for the Autumn term for you to then return your requests. We are really looking forward to being able to run these again as this year, due to not mixing bubbles, we have not been able to have any clubs running this year and we know the children have missed these.

### **Communications:**

Thank you to all of you who have the ParentHub App installed on your phones – we are up to 89% coverage. However, we want 100%! If you have not yet done this and are still relying on receiving letters and messages via text message link, please consider installing the App. Every parent that has messages coming through as texts costs us money, whereas through the App communication is free. I'm sure you'd agree with me that if we can save money on text messages that is a good thing as we can then put that money towards curriculum support. Please remember to have notifications switched on so that when we do send a message via the App you are alerted straight away. If you have any problems please let Lisa in the office know who can help resolve them.

**Assemblies:**

We are also looking forward to next academic year when we hope, as per the guidance as it stand now, we can go back to events in the hall with classes mixing, such as our daily assemblies and the much loved and missed termly class assemblies. It will be lovely to invite families back to watch their children showcase their topic learning through their class assembly.

**Summer Learning:**

As we know from our assessment work and has been shared with you through conversations and the end of year report, many of the children have had their progress and attainment impacted by the school closures and absences caused by Covid related symptoms. We also know that over the summer break there can often be a fall back in some of the children's key skills if they are not practised over the holidays. I would urge you to try and build on and encourage the children to do bits of practice of their reading, writing and maths over the break. They will have access to the online learning resources we have for them – Bug Club for reading, Times Table Rock Stars and Mathletics for Maths. Keeping a diary is a great way to encourage them to do some writing and reading stories together will help keep that love of reading. The children need a break so any work you do ask them to do, try to make as fun as possible. A little bit of work every few days will make a big difference – little and often is the key.

**Class Meetings in September:**

Traditionally we hold a class meeting early in the Autumn term. This is a great opportunity to meet with the teacher and for them to present to you the topic and other curriculum information for that term and year. Over the last couple of years, pre-covid, we have noticed attendance at these meetings has gone down. I must emphasise the importance of coming to these meetings, even if you have had a child in that year group before and you think you have all the knowledge needed please still make the effort to come. There is a number of changes this year that need to be communicated to you and that you need to know to be able to support your child as best you can so that together we can ensure the best possible outcomes for the children. We hold these meetings in the evening so that as many parents as possible can take part. The meetings are shown below (these dates are provisional at present – we will confirm in September):

- Year 5 & 6 – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6.30pm
- Year 3 & 4 – Wednesday @ 6.30pm
- Year 1 & 2 – Thursday @ 6.30pm

I do want to finish with a word of caution. Much of what is in this letter is based on the assumption that the latest guidance on removal of Covid measures (bubbles etc.) does not change between now and us coming back in September. As guidance currently stands there should be no bubbles from September but as we have learnt so many times in the last 18 months, things can change very quickly. My fingers will be crossed that everything I have written is able to go ahead, however I will write again in early September with any further updates. In the meantime, I hope you all stay safe and well and have a wonderful summer.

Yours Sincerely,



Don McGibbon  
Head Teacher



## SCHOOL TERM DATES 2021/2022

### AUTUMN TERM

First day of term	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2021
Half term (inclusive)	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021
Last day of term	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021

### SPRING TERM

First day of term	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Half term (inclusive)	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2022
Last day of term	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022

### SUMMER TERM

First day of term	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May - school closed
Half term (inclusive)	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022
Last day of term	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022

### STAFF INSET DAYS – SCHOOL CLOSED

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
1 <sup>st</sup> half term	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> & Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
2 <sup>nd</sup> half term			Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022

Please note Nursery and Reception start dates in the Autumn Term differ due to home visits and phased transition. You will receive your child's start date as part of the welcome pack and will be discussed at the meeting prior to the Autumn Term start.