CALVERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

A newsletter from the Staff and Headteacher at Calverton Primary School May 2022 No.2

CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS

Since the start of term we recognise that there have been many changes to the systems at Calverton. To remind parents / carers, the Local Authority issued Calverton with a 'letter of concern' last year and they are frequently monitoring our progress. I am very pleased that they are noting many, many positives as the school addresses areas of need and builds on existing systems.

Since the start of term we have revamped the behaviour process and there is a calmer feel across the school already. All children we assessed for their 'reading ability' and as a result we are now able to carefully match a reading book to ability for reading progress. Children are also expected to have a 'free-reader' they can read just for pleasure and we will be re-opening the library very soon to help this. Last week homework was changed to help make it more flexible and personalised. We understand this didn't quite go to plan upon launch but it will become an embedded system more particular to your child.

During summer term 2 we will implement a recovery curriculum—a curriculum that catches up on a key learning missed during the pandemic—in readiness for the new academic year. These weeks will be more themed and we will provide more information on this soon.

The Local Authority are very pleased and get impressed with the improvements seen each visit. It goes without saying that all these changes are to give your children a better quality of education, a better experience at school and to keep them safer.

We recognise a lot of this is happening at pace, as that is what is expected of us. We do try and write to you and let you know about anything new or a new way of working but please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need anything explained.

As an aside we are starting to look at the school environment alongside this work so it becomes a more inviting and appealing environment for everyone in the school.

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The country is fast approaching the celebrations of a unique moment in history—a monarch reigning 70 years on the throne. An event that may never get repeated. At Calverton we also want to mark this occasion with a small event on the last day of this term—Friday 27th May. More details will go out next week but we plan to hold a small tea party and encourage everyone to wear red, white and blue. We are hoping to get children making crowns, celebration plates, iced biscuits and the kitchen supporting us with making celebration cakes and drinks. We just need the weather to shine so we can enjoy this in the outdoors. Look out for full details next week. The children are due to receive a book to commemorate this, provided by the DfE, and we will issue it as soon as we receive it.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

SATs and TESTS

This week, Year 6 have been sitting their SATs tests. They have done brilliantly well to keep focussed and do their best. All the papers get sent away for marking so the school has no idea how well the children have done. We have to wait until around July time to get these results back at school.

During the week we had an official monitoring visit to ensure we are following all instructions and delivering the papers appropriately. We received a very positive report back from the assessor.

KS1 children will sit their SATs over the next week or so. These tests are not statutory but help the school make a judgement on each child's current ability. The other year groups will also sit a test that the school provides. I am sure you will wish all children the best.

SCHOOL FINANCES

I know in the past you will have been informed that the school has experienced some real financial challenges in recent years. The school worked hard on effectively clearing a deficit budget previously but found itself back in a deficit position. Some of this is related to the way schools are funded at Government level; some is as a result of changes at Newham level; fewer pupils is another factor and as we go into this financial year there are considerable inflationary costs and crippling energy prices—the same as you will be experiencing at home on a bigger scale.

As a school we have to reduce and eliminate this deficit position over the next couple of years. As a result, staffing is being looked at as well as classroom structure. The number of children in the school dictates the number of teachers that are required. It is lovely to have smaller class sizes but it is not cost effective. In many year groups, there is a significant number of gaps below how many children there should be. This means that in September there will be less teachers required but we are also looking at having mixed aged classes. This is not ideal, and hopefully pupil numbers will continue to pick up. We will give you more details next term when decisions have been made.

Dates for the Summer Term

27 May 2022 – LAST DAY OF TERM 5—Jubilee Celebration

6 June 2022 – TERM 6 STARTS

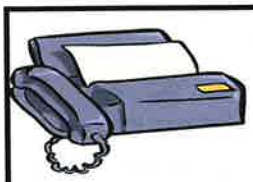
21 July 2022 – LAST DAY OF TERM 6 AND THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS BEGIN

The school is discussing the summer events like sports day, fetes, education visits, etc. and provide you with the details in good time.

We also are looking at a series of workshops for parents to help their children next term and will advertise these soon.

5 September 2022 – CHILDREN WILL RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK.

Contact us…



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