



7th June 2021

Welcome Back

Dear New and Current Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the last half term of 2020-2021.

#Virus

Another turbulent school year with the virus restrictions but a great in-school year for us. The reason I say this is because it would be very easy to write off a term for not being perfect (if comparing to pre-Covid-19 times). To write these off would not be supportive in demonstrating to our children how to cope with difficulty or challenge when it is not easy to carry on. Thank you for continuing to follow our Covid-19 risk assessment (always available on our website).

#Rollercoaster

The stress of the last year and a half on school leaders has been incredible. Being in a smaller than average school it has been difficult in terms of capacity when compared with larger schools but it has been great for our teamwork – pulling together. We have been very fortunate as a school to have had good health to date and vaccine take up amongst staff. Cook Sarah and Andrea are employed externally via a West Berkshire contract, they were furloughed for a long period of time but they have been back since Easter and they are both as bubbly as ever.

#Remembrance

At the weekend I watched the D-Day remembrance service(s) and many spoke about the 6 years of difficulty during the war and the changes to their plans and lives. It was a good reminder to me to pay attention to what we want to see more of; it is very easy to be focussed on the next step and to forget to celebrate the now – so, thank you for your continued support.

#KeepingWell

This morning I joined staff at the morning gate to see parents drop off their children, lots of smiles and good wishes were shared. It is important for me to be visible as it reminds me about the positive balance in school and its community. I have been reducing contacts for some time now as, if I were to isolate, I would have to call on my local Head from Curridge to attend for me, which is less than ideal for us both. A tiny downside of being a small school is no deputy or assistant head but... we do have funding for four classes.

#2016

This approaching school year '2021-2022' will be my sixth school year here; my first Foundation Stage Class will be entering Mr White's class in year 5. I joined the school as an

interim head as this was my specialism at the time. I used to cover long term absence, maternity leave and roles that were difficult to recruit for. I had built up a large repertoire of skills and experience and Streatley was brand new again due to its unique size.

I reminisce as many new parents to the school have yet to even have a tour of the school due to Covid- 19 restrictions; some junior children have never been in the infant classrooms or eaten in the school hall. It is good to remind or inform others of our journey here; being a good school requires a lot of decisions to be made every day.

I first visited the school in June/July of 2016 for a small number of handover days and I officially started here in September 2016. Three of the class teachers were in their first two years of teaching and the lost property box was the biggest I had ever seen in a school. The grounds were beautiful and I could see so much potential here, I remember wondering if this was for me long term? The children in every school I have worked in have been great, I have never chosen a school by its children but... this school site was incredible.

During that term I decided that with the governors (then Chair: Chris Shannon and Vice: Andy May) support I would apply to become Streatley's substantive headteacher as I was also an ex teaching and learning consultant and I had the capacity for in house training. Five years later I have seen the use of site evolve, staff have become middle leaders and /or subject leads; our website has been upgraded and children have performed well academically, in sporting events and creative areas e.g. Rats at the Royal Albert Hall.

#StaffChange

Please refer to email for details.

#Allotment, infant #beach and pond leak fix

As you entered school today you will have seen the diggers and construction up the top near the Pre-School. The work is underway and all going to plan. As communicated before half term this area is about conservation, growing and exploration.

Kind regards,

Miss L Roberts
Headteacher @StreatleySch

#KeyDates to be aware of:

June	
Weds 9 th	The Downs Year 7 lead visiting Year 6 and Year 5s
Fri 11 th	Langtree Year 7 lead visiting Year 6 and Year 5s
Tues 15 th	10.30-11.30am New 2021 Starters 'Stay and Play'
Tuesday 15 th	School Reports sent home
Weds 16 th	Optional Parent Call times and dates released- linked to report or to thank the teachers (e.g. some children are moving into the Juniors or Yr5/6 this year)
Thurs 17 th	School Photos (school uniform – no light blue gingham dresses only navy knee length)
Mon 21 st	5-6.30 pm Optional sign up date/times for parent call

Tues 22nd	10.30-11.30am New 2021 Starters 'Stay and Play' 5-6.30 pm Optional sign up date/times for parent call
Tues 29 th	Bag2School collection – check website letters if you have forgotten
July	
Thurs 1 st	6-7.50 pm Optional sign up date/times for parent call
Tues 6 th	Year 5/6 Play
Weds 7 th	7pm Virtual New Parents' Welcome Meeting with Miss Roberts (headteacher), Mr Lowery chair of Governors to welcome you to the school.
Weds 14 th	Yr6 Virtual Leavers' Assembly.
Mon 19 th	Olympics Sports Day (unsure about parent attendance yet) Might be Junior morning and infants afternoon or vice versa due to bubbles.
Tuesday 20 th	Last day of term early finish- 2pm and 2.15pm