



The Summerbank Sentinel

July 2020

An update for everyone on what's been happening in school and what comes next...

A STRANGE YEAR

When appointed Headteacher at Summerbank in November our current situation was certainly not on the job description. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank children, parents and carers, staff and the whole of our Summerbank community for the support you give to the school that really makes Summerbank a special place to be. Please have a safe and happy summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September for a new school year. To our Year Six Leavers, I'm so sorry that we haven't had chance to celebrate your time at Summerbank properly but please know we think about you often and are looking forward to hearing about your new experiences at high school. Take care everyone

Miss Pearson

END OF TERM

School will close to all children for the summer break this coming Friday (10th July). It has been good to welcome so many children back to us in the last few weeks although school has still felt very empty. I wanted to let you know how brilliant your children have been, whether they have been attending, completing work online or on paper. They have all shown amazing resilience and flexibility in adjusting to change. A big well done to them.

EXCITING BUILDING WORK

I am very pleased to announce that we heard last week that we have been successful in a bid to rebuild the entrance and offices of school. We are very excited about the difference this will make for how the school will run and the extra rooms we will gain. The building work will need to take place over the summer holiday and preparations for this will begin during what would normally have been the last week of term.

The new entrance to school will be underneath the big Summerbank sign which you see as you walk from the car park towards the current office. Please keep your fingers crossed this is completed fully in time for opening in September!

STAFFING

I am pleased to announce that Mrs J Johnson has now been appointed as Deputy Head at the school. Many of you will know Mrs Johnson from her time leading our Foundation Stage, she brings to the post great commitment to making sure Summerbank is the very best for our children. I am also very pleased that Mrs Khalid who has been teaching in Y1 this year will also now be joining us as a permanent member of staff. Mrs Baldo, Mrs Falconer and Miss Silh are also now back in school following maternity leave and looking forward to working with the children in September. Mr Hayes, who has taught music for many years, will not be returning in September, music will instead be a part of classroom learning. Mr Hayes has been a great support to the school during his time with us and we wish him every success moving forward.

SOME SAD NEWS...

Just before schools closed, Miss Quinn in Y5 started her maternity as her little boy was born months earlier than expected. Despite everyone's prayers and thoughts he passed away peacefully in his parents' arms after spending his short life in hospital. This has been a very distressing time and our every sympathy is with Miss Quinn and her family. Miss Quinn will be returning to school to teach in September and I would ask that parents share this news sensitively with their children, particularly those in Year Five and Year Six who have been taught by Miss Quinn and know her well. I know our community to be supportive, sensitive and kind and know that you will join me in making Miss Quinn's return to work as easy and welcoming as possible.

SAFETY

Those children and families who have already returned to school will know that we have a number of systems in place to keep our school community safe. We will be making further changes to prepare for the return of all children, but the following systems will remain in place in September:

- A one-way drop-off and pick-up system
- Frequent handwashing
- Children and staff grouped as 'bubbles'
- Asking parents not to come into the school building
- Limits to what can be brought in/taken home
- Only one person from a family dropping off/picking up
- Sending home any staff/children showing symptoms and making sure tests are completed

I received the guidance from the Government about what needs to be in place for September at the end of last week, so will make sure that safety measures are fully in place before we reopen.

During the summer any letters will be available on the website under the Home Study section in 'The News Room'. Texts will be sent with the link.



FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS

For those families that have received Free School Meal Vouchers over the last few months, the Government has extended the scheme over the summer holidays so you will receive one final voucher that covers the full six week period.

PHILOSOPHY FOR CHILDREN

I am very pleased to announce that the school has been successful in gaining the Bronze Award for our development of Philosophy for Children. Mr Thomas and Mrs S Johnson have led our school in making philosophy part of our learning and everyone's minds have been expanded in the process. The Award is recognition of how Philosophy for Children is now an established part of how children learn in our school.



SEPTEMBER OPENING

To make sure that everyone is able to come back to school safely, we will be gradually opening in September by taking a few year groups at a time. This will mean children and parents get chance to learn new systems and feel confident about how school is run before we have everyone coming in. We will also let children know of their new class teacher in September. We still have places in our Nursery in September, please do get in touch with the school office if you have not yet arranged a place for your child.

Please do make sure you read further communications from the school during this time. It is very difficult to predict what the situation locally will be with COVID in September so planning will continue through the summer to make sure the right measures are in place.

PAYING FOR SCHOOL MEALS & TRIPS

From September we will be switching to online payment for school dinners and trips. **Please look out for texts over the summer updating you on how the change will be made.**

THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

Whilst school has been closed we have developed the Home Study part of the website to support children in their home learning. If you haven't yet had chance to visit please do take a look www.summerbank.co.uk – it can be accessed via phone, tablet or laptop.

STAYING IN TOUCH

The challenges of COVID-19 have made it very clear that we need to develop our communication systems further. It is very important we have up-to-date contact numbers, so if you haven't already please make sure that you let the school office know if you have changed your number or moved house since March when we closed. If you have not shared your email address with us before, then please send it to the school office office@summerbank.co.uk