



School Update 05/03/21

5th March 2021

Dear Parents,

I just wanted to update you on some staff changes that will be coming up and also to update you on one or two other matters. There is also a 'quick version' of the return plan for Monday which I have called March Return Basics at the end of the letter!

Staff changes

Firstly, I want to take the opportunity to inform you that sadly Mrs Girdwood will be leaving us on 16th April. That is the end of the first week back after Easter. Mrs Girdwood is relocating to Dorset after over 4 years of teaching at Garden Fields and for many years before this in Hertfordshire schools.

During her time with us, Mrs Girdwood has also been part of our Senior Leadership Team as Phase Leader for the Upper School and made a significant contribution to the running of the school and the educational development of our children. We will be very sorry to see her go!

We are currently working to secure the services of a very experienced teacher, who has covered teachers across our school on a number of occasions over the last few years, to take over the Thursday and Fridays for the summer term, including a handover with Mrs Girdwood. I will keep Kestrel Class posted as soon as I can say more.

Unfortunately, we have also lost the services of our teaching assistant Mrs Marshall, who has been a very valuable asset in Year 3 over the last 2 academic years. She has moved to be with family in Australia but should be back at least in her parent capacity later in this calendar year.

I am pleased to inform you that Miss Orviss who has been working with us as a teaching assistant over the last few years (and is currently undertaking her teacher training with us through the Alban Federation) will be joining us as a Class teacher on the completion of her course towards the end of the summer term. Miss Orviss will be a great asset to our teaching team for next year and we are delighted that she will be starting her teaching career with us!

Update on Covid testing for Families of Children

In yesterday's letter we sent a link to the guidance below regarding lateral flow testing for families. I spoke with the DfE for further clarification today and these tests are for adult family/bubble members and **not** primary aged children as I had originally thought.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

Have a good weekend everybody and we look forward to seeing you all for on Monday – it feels good to be saying that again!

Best wishes,

Mr Farrugia

March Return Basics

1) Drop off and Pick up times

For drop off	For collection
8.40 a.m. Batchwood	3.00 p.m. Batchwood
8.45 a.m. Harpenden	3.05 p.m. Harpenden
8.50 a.m. Townsend	3.10 p.m. Townsend
8.55 a.m. Waverley	3.15 p.m. Waverley

2) Return to packed lunches

Children can either order a school packed lunch – ham, cheese or tuna roll - or bring in a packed lunch from home.

Parents of children in EYFS do not need to pre-order. Children will be offered the choices during morning registration.

3) Come into school in PE Kits on PE days / Fleece allowed – blue, grey, black preferred /Pencil Cases for Y2 upwards

PE DAYS	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
EYFS	PE – ALL (Not Mon 8 March)				
Year 1				PE – ALL	
Year 2		Pine only		PE – ALL	Larch & Cedar only
Year 3			PE – ALL		PE – ALL
Year 4	PE - ALL		PE - ALL		
Year 5	Swallow & Moorhen only	PE – ALL			Kestrel only
Year 6		PE – ALL			PE – ALL

4) Cars

All staff/authorised cars must be on site by **8.30 a.m.** in the morning and leave from **3.30 pm**

5) One way system in and out of school as before Christmas

6) Communications with teachers – via admin email address (not year group emails)

7) Drop off and pick up promptly – parents wear mask unless exempt - please do not stand around to chat

8) Children to be temperature checked on arrival

9) Please do not send children in if they have a high temperature, new continuous cough and/or loss of/change in taste and/or smell

Greater detail in yesterday's letter and at: <https://www.gardenfields.herts.sch.uk/return-to-school/>