

Monday, 07 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Hello and Welcome Back!

I hope you have all had a chance to rest and spend time with you family over the summer break. You will have read in the message from Richard Harrison, Chair of Governors, that I will be taking over as the Interim Executive Headteacher at Brecknock Primary School. As some of you already know, I am the Headteacher at Torriano Primary School and I will be sharing my time between the schools. This is an opportunity for us to learn from each other and strengthen our schools.



**It has been wonderful to meet so many of the Brecknock community this week.** I started my teaching career at Brecknock Primary School and enjoyed many wonderful years here. Thank you for being so welcoming and to those of you who have already offered me your words of support regarding my temporary appointment. I have managed to introduce myself to every class. The children were full of energy and enthusiasm and I am looking forward to getting to know them better.

The senior leadership team have commented how lovely it has been to re-connect and catch up with many of you this week. Thank you so much for your co-operation and support as we implement the necessary measures for a safe return to school. Our EYFS staff are looking forward to settling in our **new nursery and reception children over the coming weeks** and we are happy to welcome new families to our community.

This letter contains **important information regarding arrangements for the start of term**, including the school's key themes and priorities and important dates for your diary. I hope this information helps to ensure a successful and safe start to the year for all.



# COVID-19

We are constantly reviewing our systems to support social distancing in school, particularly in regards to drop off and pick up. Your patience is appreciated at the beginning and end of the day as it very important that we follow social distancing protocols to keep our community safe. Already, we have reviewed the collection arrangements for KS2 to encourage efficient and safe pick-up period at the end of the day. **We need your compliance with these systems. Please follow the one-way system and take direction from staff members. It is important that parents do not congregate on the school grounds.** If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please make contact with the school office via telephone or email to arrange this and the teacher will get back to you.

Please ensure that you read the most **recent leaflet sent out via ParentPay**. I have also attached to this email **full guidance on sickness protocols** and a leaflet from **Public Health** with further information. These are available in several languages via **this link**. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the school for advice.

## Beautiful New Classrooms!

We have had some building work completed during the holidays. The staffroom has been moved and we now have a new training room and new Year 1 classrooms, which are looking incredible.



# 'Connecting Communities'



@UNICEF Article 2  
All children have these rights

**This pandemic has separated many of us from friends and family.** This is a time to come back together safely; to learn, recover and re-connect. It is also a chance for change. Connecting our community has never been more important. **As a Gold Rights Respecting school, the children will be focusing on, Brecknock values, the rights of the child and developing their understanding of respect and empathy for others during these challenging times.**

COVID-19 has further created divisions in our society and exposed important issues such as inequality and discrimination. We must continue to confront these issues, examine our attitudes and behaviours, re-imagine and create a better, more equal society. We will connect our community this term through whole school and, of course, we will also be celebrating the **UN's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

## ARTICLE 2 (NON-DISCRIMINATION)

THE CONVENTION APPLIES TO **EVERY CHILD** WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION, WHATEVER THEIR **ETHNICITY, SEX, RELIGION, LANGUAGE, ABILITIES OR ANY OTHER STATUS, WHATEVER THEY THINK OR SAY, WHATEVER THEIR FAMILY BACKGROUND.**

## School Priorities 2020-21

A priority for the school is to swiftly respond to the loss of learning for all children during lockdown. Whilst continuing to offer a broad and balanced curriculum, we will focus on **filling the gaps in children's learning and help them to catch up.** This will be supported by government funding for tuition and interventions.

Equally important is the children's **physical health and mental well-being.** We have planned a recovery programme, in addition to our PSHE curriculum, to support children's transition back to school and respond to the additional pressures some young children might be feeling as a direct result of the pandemic.

## Who's Who?

We aim to continue our close partnership with parents and are pleased to share our **Senior Leadership Team.**



**Tiggy Mitchell** - Deputy Head Teacher (Leads on Safeguarding & Pastoral Care)



**Henry Commander** – Deputy Head Teacher (Leads on Curriculum, Assessment & KS2)



**Laura Lien** – Assistant Head Teacher (Leads on Curriculum, Rights Respecting Agenda & KS1)



Camden Children Schools & Families





**Samantha Avery** – School Business Manager



We welcome **Rachel Fields**, our fantastic Early Years Leader, to our **Senior Leadership Team**. She brings her vast experience of Nursery and Reception teaching and learning.

## New Staff

We are very fortunate to introduce some fantastic new additions to our teaching and support staff:



**Tanit Madanesus** joins us a Nursery class teacher and phonics leader.



**Adam Binding** and **Alexandra Awad** (Lexie) join us as Year 2 teachers.



**Abigail Eisenberg** (Abbi) joins us as a Year 1 teacher.

Also joining the team as learning support staff are Sandra Achille and Patrick Keaney in Reception and Jamie Rose in Year 4.

**It has been a pleasure to welcome new members of staff.** Please make our new teachers and support staff welcome; they are keen to get to know you and the community.

## Staff Leaving



It is with regret that we say goodbye to **Christine**, a Brecknock legend, who made the decision to retire during the summer. Her contribution to the school has been immense and she will be greatly missed by everybody here. We hope to give her a proper Brecknock goodbye when we have all settled in.





We also say goodbye to **Yetunde** and thank her for all the work she did, particularly around SEND. The senior leadership team will be working closely with the inclusion team at Torianno to continue to ensure the needs of all children at the school are fully met.

## Meet the Team Online Meetings

Your child's teacher will be inviting you to a '**Meet the Team**' meeting to discuss the curriculum and year group **expectations**. This is great opportunity for you to meet the whole year group team, ask questions and find out about all aspects of school life. Meetings take place on the following days @ **4pm and 4.30pm**. We will send you a Zoom link to the meeting via **Parent Pay and Parent Hub**.

<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September:</b>	<b>Year 1 @ 4pm &amp; Year 2 @ 4:30pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September:</b>	<b>Year 3 @ 4pm &amp; Year 4 @ 4:30pm</b>
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September:</b>	<b>Year 5 @ 4pm &amp; Year 6 @ 4:30pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September:</b>	<b>Reception @ 4pm</b>
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September:</b>	<b>Nursery @ 4pm</b>

## Online payments and ParentHub App

We would like parents and carers to use our online **Parent Pay payment service**. This service allows you to pay for your child's school meals, trips and after school clubs online. If you haven't signed up for this free service, please ask a member of the office team to issue you with new account details. **The school office runs a cashless payment system**. No cash will be accepted in the main office and all payments must be completed **online via the Parent Pay or via debit or credit card** in the main reception.



Currently, we are sending out letters and updates through Parent Pay. However, very soon we will be switching to our new App ParentHub. If you have not done so already, it is essential that you download the app in order to ensure you receive all school communications. **We will send out an email this week with instructions reminding you how to set it up.**

Currently **50% of parents in the school have signed up for the service but we need this to be 100%**! Thank you for your support with this.

## Breakfast Club and After-School Clubs

### **Breakfast Club**

We are able to offer a limited number of paid places in our Breakfast Club. Under the current guidance they will be placed in bubbles. The fee will be £2 per day £1.50 for those entitled to Free School Meals. The drop off is from 7.45am. All children attending breakfast club should access the school via the main gate.

You must **pre-book your place** using the form sent out by the School Office. Once the form is received we will confirm that you have been offered a space. If you have any questions or queries please email Tara: [t.kubilay@brecknock.camden.sch.uk](mailto:t.kubilay@brecknock.camden.sch.uk)



**Camden Children Schools & Families**

### After School Clubs and Play Centre

There will be no after-school clubs during the Autumn Term. This will be reviewed during the term.

**Local play centre provision** will be available at Camden Square or NW5, although numbers will be limited according to government guidelines. Please contact Paula on [camdensquare@paceforall.com](mailto:camdensquare@paceforall.com) for Camden Square or Sharley at NW5 on [nw5communityplayproject@hotmail.com](mailto:nw5communityplayproject@hotmail.com) for more details.

# Attendance

We recorded 87% attendance on the first day back and this increased to 91% on Friday which is very pleasing. It's important that this figure keeps rising and we strive for 100%! Thank you for keeping the office informed of any absence and for letting us know if you are quarantining following summer holiday travels.

**John and Tiggy will be on the lookout for good attendance and prompt school arrival this term.** We understand that reaching 100% daily attendance is challenging at this time, we will be celebrating good attendance and time-keeping behaviour in classes and online assemblies.

I look forward to working together this term, supporting each other and re-connecting the Brecknock community.

Yours sincerely,

**Helen Bruckdorfer**

Interim Executive Headteacher



**Camden Children Schools & Families**