

Headlines

3rd September 2021



Dear Parents

Welcome back to school for the year 2021-2022!

It was lovely to welcome so many children into school yesterday. With so many restrictions now removed we were able to have our first whole school assembly for over 18 months! In the assembly I spoke about some changes children would see at school. If you have any questions about anything, please don't hesitate to contact the office staff, Mrs Pirie or myself.

Next week, look out for curriculum letters, club letters and welcome letters.

In the meantime, I hope you all have a great weekend.

Best wishes, Mrs T Good



New Shoes and a new carpet!

New Staff

We welcome Mrs Poulton, Mrs Staunton and Mrs Barbato to our staff team – they will be working as Teaching Assistants in Years 3, 5 and 2 respectively. We also welcome Mrs Mundell and Mrs Lazenby who are students and will be working alongside Miss Watts (Y6) and Mrs Marwick (Y2).



The Sensory Room

New Children

We welcome a new family to the school in Year 6 and we are busy preparing to welcome Reception from Monday onwards.



New Environments

We have been very busy at Ongar over the summer holidays building and improving. Mr Herkner has again worked his magic for us and created a sensory room. This room is a quiet, restful area which is dark and will be lit with fairy lights and low lamps. It will have soft furnishings and lots of different textures and sounds to support children (and staff!) in times of stress and anxiety. In addition The Den, where Mrs Gailor and Mrs Straker work, and our new nurture room, "The Nest", will support the well-being and emotional health of our children.

Mrs Slater and Mrs Denyer have also been busy over the last term planning and planting a new garden area. Mr Herkner has again worked wonders and built a pergola and seating area.

We have also had new carpet fitted in some classrooms which, when combined with the new blinds from last term, now make the classrooms look like they need painting – Mr Fuller will be busy!

Extra day off

Surrey have decided that schools will be closed on Friday 22nd October (the day before half term) in lieu of a Bank Holiday next year.

Therefore, this half term will end at 3.20pm on Thursday 21st October.



The Den

COVID Changes

There have been lots of changes in guidance for schools throughout the summer holidays. Below is a summary of how they will affect your child:

- Classes will no longer have to isolate from each other. This means that we can now have assemblies and classes can play together.
- Teachers can move classes so we will be reintroducing French back to KS2, taught by Miss Minto. Music will continue to be taught by Mrs Meyer and some teaching assistants will work across several classes.
- Masks do not have to be worn, but we will respect anyone who chooses to do so.
- Children who have symptoms of COVID should not attend school and should have a PCR test.
- Children who show symptoms of COVID will be sent home and must have a PCR test.
- If a member of a household or a close contact has COVID, the child (or staff member if fully vaccinated or medically exempt from vaccination) can still attend school as long as they have no symptoms, although they are advised to have a test.
- Classes or groups will only be asked to isolate if there are 5 cases of COVID in a short period.
- We will continue with good hygiene – catch it, bin it, kill it – and hand washing, good ventilation and increased cleaning.

Drop off and Pick up

- Year 4, 5 and 6 children can enter either pedestrian gate from 8.50am and go round to the back playground where they will be supervised.
- Year 1, 2 and 3 children can enter via the main gates or the main gate by the bridge at 8.55am and will be met by their teachers on the front field.
- Year Reception parents can enter via the main gates or the main pedestrian gate by the bridge at 8.55 and take their children to the front playground where they will be met by Mrs Brill or Mrs Mount.
- Exit from the school site is by the bridge gates only unless you have permission to use the other gates

So many changes, but hopefully the result will be a move towards normality.

At Ongar we will continue to do our best to ensure our children are safe, happy and learning.



The Nest



Chestnut Class