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16.07.20

## **Head's Lines Summer 2020**

Usually this article would be the introduction to lots of pages filled with all of the accomplishments and achievements of our children across the schools over the course of the academic year. I thought it very timely and apt to spend some time reflecting on and celebrating instead the outstanding achievements and accomplishments of the staff instead throughout these highly difficult and complex times.

For all of us at the schools, we have had to adapt to a very different style of working, we are by our very nature; performers, carers, listeners and ultimately enjoyers of the company of children! This has been removed from us and we have found ourselves in highly uncharted waters. I for one am very proud of how we have risen to this challenge and would like just a few minutes of your time to read and absorb what we have been able to put in place for our children at Lightwater Village and Hammond schools.

To further set the context of this challenge, we have been on the frontline since the height of the pandemic. The school doors have always been open and the potential threat of the virus has been ever-present. We have not been able to erect perspex screens to protect us (apart from the reception areas), don full PPE or have specialist teams to come in and make our workspaces Covid-safe. We have taken all of this on ourselves, without question. A number of staff have had to shield themselves or members of their family and all of us have our own personal stories of difficulties throughout these times.

Since the school closures were announced at the end of March;

From an academic point of view, we have;

- Responded immediately to the school closures – setting up and launching SeeSaw accounts for all pupils and issuing codes for access
- Delivered as broad and balanced a curriculum as possible – pupils have had the option to engage with the vast majority of the subjects on offer at school
- Provided regular interaction between teachers and pupils – we did not opt for packs or the standard list of websites to access with no feedback from teachers
- Provided a point of contact for pupils and parents with their teachers via SeeSaw
- Provided a bespoke curriculum for all year groups – planned weekly by our teams of teachers
- Provided differentiated learning for any pupils who have needed it
- Provided paper packs of resources for those pupils without access to devices
- Loaned devices to those pupils in certain circumstances who have required it
- Liaised with all feeder Infant and Secondary schools in relation to Y3 and Y6 handovers

## Achieving Excellence Together

Executive Headteacher for the Federation of Lightwater Schools: Mrs Lee Parsons BSc (Hons), PGCE, NPQH  
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- Added in weekly Zoom sessions for groups or classes
- Have written Classteacher reports for all pupils to be issued via Seesaw on July 13th

From an SEN/Vulnerable Pupil/Support/Wellbeing point of view we have;

- Provided specialist special needs support for pupils with EHCPs for 5 pupils across the schools via video link including speech and occupational therapy
- Provided individual Thrive support for approximately for 30 vulnerable pupils and those suffering with the most emotional difficulties
- Responded to 11 safeguarding concerns and continued to liaise with children's Social Care to safeguard our pupils
- Provided direct Family support for over 20 families
- Secured a charitable grant and financially assisted 10 families
- Applied for over £2500 worth of food vouchers
- Offered bereavement support for families during this time
- Arranged speech and language therapy packs to be provided by the SALT team for pupils having therapy in school, to ensure it can continue at home for the time being
- Conducted weekly/daily 1:1 sessions with LSAs for pupils with SEN

From a more general point of view we have;

- Had the school open for the children of keyworkers from the outset of closures; numbers have risen from 3 to 30 and we have consistently met both the academic and wellbeing needs of these pupils throughout this time
- Created videos to reassure the children what school would be like on their return
- Moved furniture, deep cleaned spaces, created safe working spaces, erected signage, created timetables for pick up and drop off to ensure the safety of the community, adapted to working times with reduced break and lunch to allow for the increased supervision of the children
- Opened the doors FULL TIME for all 3 Year groups requested by the Government, without exception (many other schools have limited this to single year groups/rotas/not at all)
- Over 80% of these Year groups have been safely back in school
- Fully deep cleaned the schools every Friday on top of increased cleaning regimes on a daily basis
- Been able to provide ongoing CPD for our staff so that we are ready to move swiftly to meet the needs of our children on their return in September
- Ensured all transition administration has been completed in readiness for September
- Adapted our transition package for New Year R and 3 parents and children
- Issued refunds for all balance and deposits paid for cancelled trips (Year 6 will be issued from next week)
- Provided opportunities for pupils to reclaim any lost items

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- Organised a book donation scheme for Hammond
- Organised an exercise book collection point for Hammond
- Kept our websites updated with Covid and transition information
- Sent regular and detailed communications to parents
- Celebrated success via weekly celebration assemblies
- Recruited 1 new teacher, 2 new LSAs and 1 SCITT trainee to the team at Hammond
- Ensured consistency in teaching teams across the schools in readiness for September
- Kept up a consistent, calm and positive attitude throughout

Moving forward, we will also;

- Continue to maintain the SeeSaw learning for the remainder of this school term
- Arrange a zoom swap day for classes to meet their new teachers
- Issue Classteacher reports and the new classes to pupils on July 13th
- Organise for a fully risk-assessed holiday club to be set up at both schools over the summer break
- Apply for any additional catch-up funding for our pupils if appropriate
- Work swiftly to address any gaps in learning and adjust the curriculum for the children to be able to catch up
- Respond to any further updates or guidance to maintain the safety and welfare of our staff and pupils
- Have Thrive and additional wellbeing support avenues in place for the children's return
- Work from the GLF reengagement curriculum proposal where appropriate for our pupils
- Ensure we are able to open for all pupils in September, if guidance allows

Thank you for your time if you read to the end of this letter and I hope you will join with me in extending a very heart-felt thanks to all of the wonderful staff at these schools.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work with your children and those of you who have taken the time to thank us via a variety of channels. The time taken to do this is never a priority and has certainly helped us to keep going!

Thank you for your ever-present support,

Stay Safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Parsons'.

Mrs Parsons

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