

Autumn Term 2020 – Newsletter Number 1



Tanners Wood JMI School

Website: www.tannerswood.herts.sch.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TannersWoodSchool>

Be the Best You Can!



Holidays **must not** be booked during school term time.

Term Dates 2020-21:

Autumn Term 2020

Half term: Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Term Ends: Friday 18th December 1.30pm

Spring Term 2021

Children begin: Monday 4th January

Half term: Monday 15th – Friday 19th February

Term Ends: Friday 26th March 1.30pm

Summer Term 2021

Children begin: Monday 12th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May

Inset day: Friday 28th May

Half term: Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

Term Ends: Friday 16th July 1.30pm

Date	Event
10th May 2021	Year 6 SATS week
May 2021	Year 2 SATS
W/B 7th June 2021	Year 1 Phonics testing
W/B 7th June 2021	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Dates for the 2021-22 Academic year will be agreed and you will be notified shortly.

Telephone Meetings for Parents of Children with Special Educational Needs

Due to COVID-19, this term's SEND meetings will take place via telephone call on 23rd September. If this applies to your child, you will be notified early next week of the procedure for booking the telephone appointment.

Year 6 Secondary Transfer – message from South West Herts Consortium

Year 6 parents have been notified of a change to the planned admissions tests which will no longer take place in September. The consortium of schools will meet shortly to agree upon dates suitable to all schools and their prior scheduled commitments.

At the present time, our test will be held either in October prior to half term or in November after the break. Whilst this means that test scores will not be known PRIOR to the 31st October secondary transfer application deadline, we have been informed that most local authorities will allow a change to your school preferences up until 4th December 2020.

We would advise that all parents with children testing this year check with their local authority to establish what measures have been put in place to enable them to ensure they are able to choose a non-selective school as part of their preferences.

As soon as a date has been agreed, you will be notified.

Illness and Absence

If a child is unwell with COVID-19 symptoms, they **MUST NOT** come to school and you must inform the school office immediately.

We have had some queries from parents in instances where children are feeling ill. It is vitally important that if children are exhibiting any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (new persistent cough, temperature of 37.8C or above, or loss of taste or smell) that the household isolates for 14 days or until a negative result is confirmed. This will help to keep our community safe.

Tests can be accessed at the following link:

<https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>

Welcome to Year 1-6 PowerPoints

Due to COVID-19, teachers will be creating a PowerPoint full of useful information on the year ahead. These will replace the 'meet the new teacher' meetings that would usually take place at this time of year.

These will be uploaded onto the school website on Tuesday 15th September.

Home Learning and Google Classroom

Google Classroom will be used for home learning tasks this academic year. We are aiming to follow government advice to reduce the resources coming from home to school.

You will be able to continue to use the logins provided to your child in April and the class teacher will be able to give further guidance should you need it.

Should your child be required to remain at home (for example due to self-isolation), teachers will upload work onto Google Classroom for completion.

Anti-Social Behaviour

We were visited by local Police Officers on Wednesday afternoon, who informed us that they were responding to reports of anti-social behaviour near the local shops involving teenagers. They informed us that they would be undertaking additional patrols of the area to ensure these teenagers were not smoking near to the school.

We ask all parents to be vigilant and to call the police if they have any concerns.

Goodbyes

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to two valued members of staff.

Mrs Whelan worked with a number of children over the 13 years she has worked with us. Everyone on the team has seen the impact she had on supporting children with very complex needs. She also supported other TAs in helping them work with children who have SEN in a helpful and constructive way and we are grateful for this too.

We are also very sorry to be losing Mrs Lane as an SEN support TA. She has worked with us for almost 5 years, beginning her time with us as an MSA and more recently supporting children with SEND in mainstream. We will miss the calm and flexible way she always worked with the children and staff.

We wish them both well in their new endeavours.

Attendance for the Week

Class	Red <95%	Amber 95%	Green 96%+
Apple	94.9		
Ash	89.7		
Beech			100
Cypress	93.3		
Elm			96.4
Fir	89.7		
Holly	89.8		
Juniper			98.3
Larch	89.7		
Maple			96.6
Oak		95.0	
Pine			96.7
Rowan			99.2
Spruce	89.7		
Willow			96.7

Well done to Beech Class with 100% attendance last week.

Environment Award

The winner this week is Fir class, well done for keeping your classroom and cloakroom area neat, tidy and well organised!

Road Safety

It is vitally important for the safety of all children that they are aware of road safety, particularly for those children in Years 5 and 6 who may be walking and cycling to school independently. We have spoken to the older children about keeping themselves safe, and recapped the rules they need to follow. Please can we ask parents to reiterate this with the children.

Online Safety

Online safety continues to play an important role at our school and we would ask that parents join us in helping to educate and discuss aspects of online safety with all our children. Please be aware of any social media and games that your child is using and watching and ask them to show you anything that they are unsure about.

The latest 'Online Safety' newsletter from Hertfordshire is up on our school website so please have a look at this one as well as previous newsletters here:

<https://tannerswood.herts.sch.uk/esafety-for-parents/>

It is important to continue to have conversations about ways to be safe online and around the dangers of giving out information. The newsletters outline a range of websites and organisations that can give you more information and help in your discussions. Thank you for your support with this.

Reading Extracts

As you are aware, the children take home the reading excerpt that they will study the following week in class. It is very important that they get the opportunity to not only read, but to discuss and comprehend the text, otherwise they will struggle to follow the lesson in class. There is an expectation to read at home already, and the excerpt counts as one of those reading sessions, so they are not being asked to do anything in addition. Whilst we teach the children the skills of reading in school, they need to practise at home to develop fluency and build the comprehension skills they are being taught in class. Thank you for your support in this matter. Reading excerpts will be found on Google Classrooms.

Parent Peer Support Group

Mind are organising online sessions for parents who may be feeling anxious about school reopening. If you are interested in taking part, please email: info@hertfordshiremind.org

The sessions will take place on a Wednesday 10-11am.