



A superb re-creation of Gustav Klimt's 'Tree of Life' by Lylah Terry Mason in Year 3

LOTS OF VERY IMPORTANT NEWS AND INFORMATION IN HERE!!

Thursday 11th June 2020

Dear everyone,

Return to school for Years 2 3 4 and 5

The government announced on Tuesday that it was removing the expectation that all year groups returned to school before the summer. This is a decision **based on physical and staffing capacity and not public health**. Our half day model, and our staff capacity means that we can open and the guidance is clear that where it is possible, this should happen. We feel it is critical, both for their learning and for their (and your?!) social and mental health, that children and teachers are reunited for a month before the summer break.

So we will **OPEN for Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 from June 22nd**. We are delighted!

We will continue with our half day model with the children learning and playing in 'bubbles' of 15. Half days are not ideal for your work we know, but we feel it is better for learning as it allows for continuity and progression in learning with no gaps; other options of having 'bubbles' blocked 2 full days on, 3 days off model create discontinuity.

Morning sessions are 9-12 and afternoon 12.30-3.30.

We will let you know today or tomorrow (by email and text alert) if your child is morning or afternoon; please do not make assumptions about which based on alphabetical order. This was our starting point but it has rapidly unravelled as we work to retain continuity for children already in school under the key worker/other group criteria and to ensure siblings are in the same half. There is absolutely no room for requests or swaps – I'm sorry.

Years 1,3,4,5 and 6 will enter through the main gates.



Years N, R and 2 will use Raveley St.

Please wait, physically distanced and not crowding either gate, at some point in the Home Zone. EP staff are out there to help this go smoothly. What would work best is having a regular 'position' which we can get to know and direct your child safely to.

Full details for returning year groups in next week's newsletter.

Snacks

As the national fruit scheme is suspended until September, a reminder to all those children in school that they may bring a healthy snack; fruit, cereal bars - no crisps, no chocolate - for break.

Please also send your child in with their own named water bottle which should come home every day for a wash.

UKMT – United Kingdom Maths Challenge

We are pleased that this is being made available online. We will manage this in school on **Friday 26th June** once Year 5 are fully back. I will be asking children in Years 5 and 6 who would like to try and will sort on line passwords etc. Practising this complex challenge makes **ALL** the difference so do go to <https://www.ukmt.org.uk/competitions/solo/junior-mathematical-challenge/archive> and warm up!

We are delighted that a more accessible challenge has been launched for Years 3 and 4 (so we will include Year 2) and we will organise this 'online entry' in the **week of 29th June**. If you'd like to have a go, the 2019 pilot paper can be found here https://www.m-a.org.uk/resources/FMC_2019.pdf. I've had a look and it is much more accessible to this age group than the main paper!

Golden Book Assembly – now just for Years 2 3 4 and 5!

In the absence of our Friday celebratory assembly, we nominate a home learning superstar from each class each week. Book Bingo chocolate stocks will be delivered to your door by Miss Flood.

Team 5 have chosen Elektra - always engaged and taking her learning further at home!

Miss Cousins nominates Iseult in Year 4 – consistent good work but also a real effort to maintain her handwriting and not just to complete work on the computer!

Miss T would like to mention Lylah in Year 3 -for her fantastic interpretation of 'Tree of Life' – and all her creative responses to home learning.

Emmanuel in Year 2 – Mr Cairns says On Fire! Completing lots of learning on both Angela's and Year 2's classroom!

Teachers for next year

Somewhere in all of this we have a new school year to plan! I always like to let you know early about staff changes and plans for the year ahead. This year we have two significant changes. After 14 years with us, Helen Holgate, our Reception teacher, is leaving us. What a loss to EP. Helen is a quite exceptional early years teacher and the time she invests in both the children and parents to ensure a smooth start is critical to a confident start to school. We are all in awe of her teaching ability and her wealth of experience. Testimony to her intellect and commitment is that Helen is leaving to undertake an MSc and then a PhD in early years education – and perhaps to take life a little easier!

Annie Fair too has decided through this extended 'different' time to take the leap into a long-planned career change and train to be a child counsellor, a career she is incredibly well suited to. Annie has worked tirelessly alongside our teachers for 10 years, to support children with additional needs. She has been brilliant. We will miss her enormously too.



In making decisions about classes I have considered the needs of the children so, where possible, teachers are 'moving up' in some capacity with their class so as to counteract the impact of missed schooling. This seems particularly important in the key transition: into 'big' school from Nursery and into the juniors. I've also wanted to support the professional development of teachers in developing their experience of other year groups. So, our line-up is:

Y6 – Charlie Maccormick

Y5 Tom Gibson

Y4 Stefan Palejowski (new to EP – but trained with us in Year 1 and already well known and loved by all the children!)

Y3 Craig Cairns

Y2 Lacey Cousins

Y1 Sara Stokes

Reception Sophie Hartnell

Nursery Susie Yaffe (and Sally Hill in on Fridays whilst Susie leads on developing our EP outdoor education!)

But what about Rosie Thomson I hear you cry!? I am delighted that, whilst Natalie Stevenson is on maternity leave, Miss T has been appointed as our acting deputy head. As such she will be 'out of class' and will be in charge of Key Stage 2, in particular, ensuring Year 4 (her current class) get off to a flying start with Mr P, helping Year 6 in their all-important final year and taking a lead for those children who need extra support.

Summer Fair - loss of income

We will not be able to have our annual Summer Fair and therefore have a loss to our income of almost £10,000. This year the PTA emptied its coffers and gave us £35,000 that, coupled with our 'Keep it EP' income of £13,000, has made a HUGE difference to balancing our budget. It is a concern that this year of all years we will sustain this loss.

Do we have volunteers who could meet with me to plan some sort of virtual Summer Fair event?! Remembering our solar panel campaign it would be great to construct a click and donate site!? Where people can 'buy' a Pimms, a burger and a go on a bouncy castle and donate £10 etc?!

Can we have an online auction?

Do we have any quiz-masters?

I need IT help to construct this. Please email me directly if you can offer practical help alongside ideas!!!

A second chance to cast your mind back to life before lockdown and all that EP did! It's the time of the year when we ask parents – and staff, children, governors and the local authority – to reflect on the year and give us feedback. We are VERY aware that this has been an extraordinary time but we hope that you will feel able to answer the questions. This year – of course - it is an online questionnaire.

You can either click this hyperlink

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Parent20/>

or simply hold you phone camera up to this QR code. It should take you to a short questionnaire. We'd ask that you do it by tomorrow, **Friday 12th June**. Thanks to the 100 who have responded to date: please take a moment to do it now!

PLEASE ENSURE YOU PRESS SUBMIT! OUR SYSTEM ALLOWS US TO SEE HOW MANY ARE COMPLETE AND YET NOT SUBMITTED; 38 ARE THUS 'IN PROGRESS' WHICH SEEMS HIGH!



Managing our whole school health

We have had two weeks with no one case of illness. Children have been excellent at following our new regular hand-washing routines.

However everything tumbles in our new regime if a child comes into school ill, and possibly with covid so I will persist in reminding you not to send your child in if they are symptomatic.

YOU MUST keep your child off if they (or any of you) show any of the following symptoms:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature). Your child might seem fatigued.
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Testing is now available to anyone - including under 5s - who develops new coronavirus symptoms. To book a test, go to the [national coronavirus testing website](#) or phone 119. Testing is most effective within the **first three days** of a person experiencing symptoms. If you have any questions about coronavirus testing, please contact covid-19queries@camden.gov.uk.

We have gleaned that testing sites are mobile and locations change. We will ensure we have up to date information – just ask.

And finally, now that we are nearly normal, a reminder about attendance and punctuality!! As before all this, school starts promptly - be that 9am or 12.30 - and attendance is expected every day. Days off for birthdays or long weekends wouldn't have been sanctioned before! **Re-establishing the HABIT of school attendance is vital if we are to secure the life chances and well-being of our children.**

With thanks for your continued support – and love - from all the staff at EP. Roll on the 22nd when we will all be back.

Kate Ford