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Head of School: Mr Pierre Coiffait

Thursday 23rd July 2020

End of School Year

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write with some items of information on what is a very strange last day of the year in school.

School leavers

Thank you, well done and good luck to our Year 6 pupils who are leaving us today. We are truly sorry that the restrictions have not allowed us to give them the send-off we usually give to our leavers. Hopefully they have many happy memories of their time at Hawthorns. We look forward to hearing about their progress in future years – please update us, we like to know!

Staff leavers

We say goodbye today to Amy Rose, Jon Pointon and Joyce Davies. All three of them have been key members of the Hawthorns team and while we are really sad to see them go, we wish them all of the very best of luck in their next endeavours.

Site adaptations

We have had four new classrooms sited on our middle playground. There have also been a few adaptations in the building to support us with running the new protocols that are being put in place. We replaced some fencing and gates for the same reason, and the wildlife area has had some changes so that the children can do some more outdoor learning next year.

New protocols for September

As you will expect, there will be a lot of changes in school and the way it will operate at the beginning of the school year. These are detailed elsewhere and will be updated further during the school holidays. The children will have significantly reduced contact with those not in their class, and there will be no social gatherings like assemblies and events to begin with. We also have to limit the number of people entering the building, which will mean parents will not be permitted to come in to school in September. This is not something we do willingly, but we have to follow the protocols and guidance dictated to us to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Please expect the first few days to have some delays if you are dropping your child at school in September. More families, children and staff is inevitably going to put more pressure on the spaces available on site. The addition of controlled entry will only add to the time and lead to queues. These will speed up over time as everyone becomes familiar with the new drop off and collection arrangements. We have created an additional gated entry for the transport children, but there will still be considerable pressure on our limited entry points.

School year dates

The school summer holidays start as planned from the close of school today. We open for all our children on **Thursday 3rd September**. Our term dates are published on our website – please be careful to check the end of the school year in July 2021 in particular, as this may be different from the date Tameside Council will be publishing for primary pupils on its own website (they may be changing it over the holidays).

Tameside meeting for Parents

A letter was sent out to parents via ParentPay from Tameside (not to parents of leavers) to outline their plans for Hawthorns in the near future. The demand for school places here has been increasing in the last couple of years, as have our pupil numbers. This trend is likely to continue for a while. It is fairly obvious to everyone that the school as it is can no longer accommodate any further increases in pupil numbers. Tameside have acknowledged that something needs to be done, and they have indicated that they would like to hold an open meeting with you, the parents of Hawthorns School, in September to discuss their plans for the school moving forward. I am not sure what format this meeting will take place in given the continued social gathering restrictions, but I would urge you to attend the meeting to share your views. It is not often that you have opportunity to engage directly with the Council, so please look out for the invite early next term.

Finally...

I would like to thank you, our families, for the supreme effort you have all made over the last four months in particular. This has been a difficult, challenging and at times very scary period of time, where dramatic events that have threatened all of our friends and loved ones have completely devastated our normal daily lives. Despite the speed of the pandemic and the restrictions of the lockdown, you have all done your bit to support our NHS and to save lives. You should all be proud of this achievement.

Have yourself a safe and enjoyable summer. We look forward to having everyone back in school in September.

Take care,

Pierre Coiffait

Pierre Coiffait,

Head of School