

14th July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

All of us here at Dame Janet can't quite believe we're almost at the end of another academic year. This one has certainly matched the challenges of last year, but we remain incredibly proud of the resilience and determination of all the children. They faced bubble closures, lockdowns, disrupted routines and lots of unknowns that we've never had to face at school before. Reports will be sent home with your child at the start of next week; these will give you an insight into what your child has been doing.

How does the easing of restrictions affect us at school?

TKAT (the multi-academy trust to which DJPA belongs) have requested that all of its schools continue with their current risk assessment right through until the end of term. This means that staff will continue to wear masks in communal areas, and out on the playgrounds. The one-way systems and necessity for parents to wear a mask while on school premises will remain until the end of term. I will write to you again over the summer with an update of how things will look in school for September.

Staff goodbyes

This year, we are saying a number of goodbyes to valued members of staff. Firstly, we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Baker and Mrs Sacks who have worked at the school for many years! Mrs Baker has dedicated 29 years to the school, while Mrs Sacks is close by with an amazing 26 years. I know there's a number of children at the school whose parents were also supported by Mrs Baker and Mrs Sacks when they were children! They both head off into the sunset to enjoy a retirement that they have most certainly earned! We look forward to welcoming them back for visits, and maybe even an appearance on the odd school trip!

We also say goodbye to Mr Evans, Ms Mannering and Miss Keeler who head off into the next stage of their career. Mr Evans is joining the team at St Ethelbert's, in Ramsgate, while Ms Mannering joins Twinkl as part of their team. Miss Keeler will be teaching year 1 at Luddenham Primary. They are all much loved teachers amongst the children and staff, and we wish them the best with their new roles.

We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Dennis, Miss Dear and Mrs Spain who have been dedicated members of the staff over the years. Miss Dear has been successfully appointed as Assistant Headteacher at St Martin's, in Dover; this is a role that we know she will be fantastic at and we wish her the very best. Mrs Dennis and Mrs Spain are looking for quieter weeks and are hoping to spend more time with their loved ones and enjoying their own interests. Again, we wish them the very best.

Mrs Jones has been with us a short time supporting in Year R. Although we lose her for the number of hours she has been working, we are sure to see her continue in her volunteering role alongside her studies.



New SENCO

Following Miss Dear's promotion, we are pleased to announce that we have successfully appointed Miss Thompson into the role of SENCo. Miss Thompson has a range of primary teaching experience, and has most recently been teaching with us at Dame Janet in Year 5. Miss Thompson and Miss Dear are using the next week to hand over the information needed.

Staff hellos

In September, we welcome Miss Storey and Mrs Evans to our teaching staff. The children in their class enjoyed a morning with them on our 'meet the teacher' morning. We are actively recruiting a teaching assistant for our Early Years team, with interviews being held next week.

End of term celebration

Fingers crossed for some lovely weather next week, please! We have booked a range of inflatables for the whole school to enjoy across the day on Tuesday 20th. Every child will also receive an ice cream from the ice cream van which will be visiting.

Wednesday 21st July (the last day of term)

As mentioned in one of my previous updates, we will all enjoy an earlier finish on Wednesday. While we continue to follow our current risk assessment, we need to ensure that our staggered finish times remain. With this in mind, please see the finish times below:

Year group	Finish time on Weds 21st July
Shorty's Nursery*	1:30pm
Year R (Reception)	1:20pm
Year 1	1:30pm
Year 2	1:20pm
Year 3	1:20pm
Year 4	1:30pm
Year 5	1:20pm
Year 6	1:30pm

* Nursery Am session will finish at 11.30am. If your child usually attends all day, they will finish at 1.30pm. There will be no nursery Pm session this day.

Uniform

Just a reminder that full school uniform, including PE kits, will be expected in September. Some sportswear that doesn't meet our current uniform policy has crept in – please try to source the correct uniform over the holiday.

Diary dates

We have mapped out the key dates for the next academic year; we will endeavour to keep these stable but please note, they may be subject to change. These dates can be found on our school website.

Year 6 leavers

Last, but not least, we say goodbye to our current year 6 children. Although they haven't ended their year in all the ways they usually would, they have managed to enjoy some lovely, slightly adapted, celebrations. Some trips out to build independence and resilience and a very successful overnight camp at school, have been enjoyed by all. We are

disappointed to be unable to have their families join us for their graduation, but we remain pleased that it can go ahead for the children. They also have their leavers' prom to look forward to next week! Good luck Year 6 – continue to shine at Secondary School!

All of us at Dame Janet would like to extend our thanks for your support this year. With last minute bubble closures, and a period of remote learning we know it hasn't been easy. We hope you and your children enjoy a happy summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming children back on Friday 3rd September.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs G.Sherwin

Head of School

Mr S.Atkinson

Executive Headteacher