



Georgian Gardens CP School

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Head Teacher: Miss A Bowers

Dear Families,

This is an important letter with lots of updates about the rest of this term and our initial plans for September. Firstly, I would like to thank you all for the huge amount of support that you have shown the school throughout this difficult time. I know it has not been easy for anyone and I am honoured to work in a community that has come together to do the best that we can for our children in these difficult times.

Summer Closure

I can confirm that Georgian Gardens will be closed to ALL pupils during the summer holiday.

**The last day of term for every pupil in school will be Thursday 16th July.
The school will close at lunchtime (following current Friday pick up times)**

This is one day earlier than previously advertised. The additional time will also be used for teachers to have a hand over session with the current class teachers to ensure a smooth transition in September. We will also need to use this extra day to reorganise the school. There are significant works happening over the summer and so access for staff will be restricted for much of the time.

I would like to thank my staff for providing childcare for keyworkers throughout the lockdown. If you are in need of childcare over the summer I know that Rascals <https://www.rascalschildcare.org.uk/> will be open for a limited number of spaces. I will also forward any information about alternative providers as I receive it.

New Developments – building works

I am delighted that we have been able to secure funding through West Sussex to replace all of the windows around the quad area. This will really give the school a lift! This is hopefully the beginning of a rolling programme to update the windows and doors throughout the school.

I am also very excited to be able to confirm that we have scheduled the work in the library to take place over the summer. This has come together through PTA fundraising, donations from local companies and grant applications. We look forward to a grand opening next term!

September

At this current time, it looks like the plan is to get all pupils back into school with a range of measures put in place to keep everyone safe. I am still awaiting guidelines from the government on the finer details – but will keep you updated as these occur. It is likely that we will still need to have staggered start times etc., but at this point I cannot give any definite information.



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The new staffing Structure for next year:

Pupils will be returning to their new year groups, which are set up as follows

	Current Class	New Teacher in September 2020	New Teaching Assistants in September 2020	Additional 1-1
Year R		Mrs Meakins RHM	Mrs Silverthorne Mrs Scully (Th)	
		Mrs Johnson RKJ	Mrs Chauhan	
Year 1	RKJ	Mrs Roberts 1ER	Mrs Merrett	
	RHM	Mrs Chapman (M- W)/ Mrs Harrison (T- F) 1CH	Mrs Shipham	
Year 2	1NY	Miss Burge 2HB	Mrs Villiers (am)	Mrs Tate
	1ER	Mrs Spring 2GS	Mrs Godley	Mrs Foster (am) Mrs Leggett (pm)
Year 3	2HB	Mrs Mills 3FM	Mrs Bates (am)	Mrs Batts
	2AL	Mr Ansell 3CA	Mrs Allen (am)	
Year 4	3CA	Mrs King (M- W)/ Mrs Trahern (T-F) 4KT	Mrs Martin (am)	
	3FM	Mr Lockwood 4AL	Mrs Leggatt (am)	
Year 5	4AL	Mr Alcorn 5BA	Mrs Day (am)	
	4KT	Ms Lawrence 5AL	Mrs Dray (am)	Mrs Donovan (M-W) Miss Cripps (T-F)
Year 6	5BA	Mrs Fookes 6TF	Mr Pettitt (am)	
	5GS	Miss Petfield 6LP	Mrs Smith (am)	
	TBC	Mrs Thomas (am) *	Mr Grace (am)	

*Year 6 parents will notice that there are three class teachers in the morning in year 6 and 3 teaching assistants. We have built this structure to ensure that the pupils are given additional support in groups of 20 for literacy and numeracy in the mornings following their period of disruption this year. You will be informed early in the term as to which morning group your child is in.



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Will the children have a chance to say goodbye to their old teacher & hello to their new one?

We know that this is a really difficult time for pupils and want to support their emotional well-being as best we can. After a lot of deliberation, we have decided that coming back to a new teacher is a chance for a fresh and exciting start. The children's new teachers will be adding a video clip over the coming weeks on See Saw to welcome them to their year. If social distancing and guidelines permit, we will also be arranging for this year's teachers to have a visit with their old class in their new setting in the first couple of weeks back to celebrate their new start with them. (We want to focus on the positives rather than what has been missed out on or what has been left behind).

How will we ensure other pupils are given the chance to 'catch up'?

I'm sure you will have seen a lot of debate in the news about how children can be 'caught up on learning'. Personally, I believe that we need to look at this as a longer-term process to ensure that all learning is completely secure rather than a 'quick fix'. Our teachers are experts in identifying gaps in understanding and planning learning to close these.

As Headteacher, I have been researching this widely and have been highly reassured by articles across the globe, which have shown that with the right intervention over time pupils can actually exceed what they might have done anyway despite significant interruptions to learning. I am currently developing plans with teachers to ensure that we get this right. The first half of the autumn term will be split into sections to ensure that we go back over key learning that has been missed:

First 2 days – Getting to know you days with class teacher – building new and re-establishing old relationships.

First 2 weeks – themed skills development in the mornings (focussed on handwriting, spelling, reading and mental maths with some 'fun games based' assessment activities to allow teachers to make further plans to support targeted learning for pupils).

Weeks 3 – 7 teaching blocks focussed on the key learning points from core subjects in the previous year group. By going back over this and ensuring pupils are secure we will be ready to move onto the current year's curriculum after the half term. (Pupils who are already secure in these will be challenged to apply learning in new broader contexts).

During week 7 – teachers will profile all pupils using our Thrive tool, which checks on emotional well-being and development. Again, this will help to identify pupils who may need additional support throughout the year in these non-academic areas.

Half term

Return to start of the new academic year expectations and curriculum – teachers will work to cover the full curriculum during the remaining 5 half terms.

Ongoing Additional support

We are likely to have groups and individuals who will need additional tutoring and catch up after this initial reintroduction. This will be where we will focus spending money for catch up that has been announced from Government.



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Free School Meal Vouchers

It has been confirmed that free school meal vouchers for those that are entitled will continue throughout the summer. If you are eligible and receive these via email this will continue. If you usually collect a paper voucher from the office, the office staff will be in touch about arrangements for collecting your summer voucher.

Staffing changes

Staff that are leaving this year.

At the end of the summer term, we will say a fond farewell to some of our staff. Mrs Fordham is retiring. Mrs Fordham has worked at the school for twenty-five years as a Teaching Assistant and there is not much she does not know about the goings on at Georgian Gardens!

Mrs Darney, who has made a tremendous contribution to the sports provision at the school over the past nine years, including helping us to achieve Sports Mark Platinum, is retiring. We wish her all the very best.

Mrs Everett who has worked at Georgian Gardens as a TA and then as our HLTA who taught French across the school is also retiring. The pupil's French skills have really grown as a result of this work.

Mrs Nelson is leaving year 1 as Mrs Harrison is returning from her maternity leave. We wish her well in her future career.

New staff for September

Ms Chambers – PE Coach/ HLTA/ PPA cover

Ms Wakelin – HLTA/ PPA cover

Mrs Thomas – Year 6 teacher (part time)

Mr Grace – TA team

Miss Cripps – TA team

We look forward to welcoming our newcomers to the team.

End of Year reports

End of year reports will be sent out for all pupils before the end of term. These cover the time between September and March before the official closure. These will be sent in the post – if you have moved please make sure the office have your up to date address!

Farewell Year 6 –

More information will come out next week to year 6 families regarding our plans to celebrate your time at Georgian Gardens.

There will be lots more information!

This is just the start of our plans – there will be a lot more to clarify in terms of the logistics of how everything will work whilst still ensuring that we can keep everyone safe. I will get further information to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support

A E Bowers

Miss Bowers
Headteacher



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