



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Halley House School,

Thank you to all our families and wider community for being instrumental in ensuring the start of our Autumn term has been so positive! Children have settled into their new classes and are now thoroughly immersed in new topics and new learning; staff have been equally engrossed in everything the new academic year has to offer! Thank you also to families for keeping us regularly updated with any absences, or concerns about illnesses – we understand this a confusing and worrying time for everyone and we are hugely appreciative of your ongoing support. Our overall attendance is continuing to creep up, which is fantastic, our slightly revised club timetable is now in full swing and our Outdoor Adventure sessions are due to imminently resume: there is no doubt it will be another busy term at Halley! Please also see below (and attached) some further details about our contingency planning. Have an enjoyable and safe week ahead,

*Claire Syms*

### Attendance & Punctuality

Week Beginning	7 <sup>th</sup> September		14 <sup>th</sup> September	
	Attendance	Punctuality	Attendance	Punctuality
Comet	95.9%	95.9%	93.85%	96.6%
Eclipse	93.8%	93.8%	97.2%	97.2%
Galaxy	89.1%	90.4%	98.35%	94.2%
Cosmos	89.1%	90.4%	94.2%	94.2%
Hawking	96.9%	97.6%	92%	92.3%
Einstein	96.2%	98.5%	93.3%	93.7%
Jemison	96%	96.8%	85%	85.3%

Time spent out of school is detrimental to your child's/children's academic development. It continues to be of the utmost importance that your child attends school every day. A sore throat or runny nose are not usually reasons for absence.

### Monday Missions

#### Reception

We have read Elmer in class and have been learning about how to be a good friend as well as what makes us the same and different to others! Can you describe what things we can do to be a good friend or help us describe what makes us different or similar to others?

#### Year 1

We have been exploring our senses. Can you make a list of all the senses you use when in your local environment? You may want to create a poster, diagram or an information sheet.

#### Year 2

We have been learning about healthy eating and which plants or parts of a plant we can eat. Keep a food diary this week of all the plants you eat. What part of the plant were you eating?

In history, we have been learning about Neil Armstrong and his achievements. Can you create a timeline of his life?

### ★ ★ SUPER STARS! ★ ★

Our Super Stars of The Week are:

	11/09/2020	18/09/2020		
<b>Reception</b>				
<b>Comet</b>	Aaron	Tayo	Eliz	Kamal
Stage 1				
<b>Eclipse</b>	Abraham	Asher	Sarah	Ameerah
<b>Cosmos</b>	Jahmil	Kwame	Demi	Ella
<b>Galaxy</b>	Mia	Oscar	Rae	Abiel
Stage 2				
<b>Hawking</b>	Le'Shai	Mattia	Julia	Alvin
<b>Einstein</b>	Tiannah	Kyrone	Arthur	Victoria
<b>Jemison</b>	Sumayyah	AJ	Ta'Kai	Ricky

Well done to everyone for being such good role models by showing our school values and trying your best!

## Year 1 - Science

In Year 1, we have had a fantastic start to the academic year. Children have settled well and are very enthusiastic towards their learning. We started our science topic with an experiment – *do taller children always have bigger shoes?* To help us answer this question, we carried out an investigation. We measured our feet and our height, then we put the information onto a graph to help us answer our question. What do you think we found? Using investigative approaches in science is a whole school focus for us this year – well done to Y1 for already leading the way!



## STEM Volunteers

At Halley House, we continue to devote time and energy to broadening and enriching our science curriculum. This academic year, we are focusing on developing children's interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects. To achieve this, we are calling out to parents who may work in any of the STEM fields to volunteer a small amount of time to share some of your experiences with our children, to inspire, excite and educate them about careers that use the STEM subjects. This will provide a wealth of information to children as you will be able to share some of the exciting things that you do and inform children how STEM plays a role in your job. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge with our children and inspiring our next generation of STEM leaders, or would like more information, please contact Ms Khatun via the school office. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Spanish in Year 2

Year 2 have been really enjoying starting Spanish lessons again. So far we have been practising greetings and learned how to introduce ourselves and ask for someone else's name. This week we have also learned how to say how we are feeling. We have played speaking games like 'Guess Who?' and collected data about our class asking all the survey questions in Spanish. The children have been doing fantastically and it is great to see their confidence grow each day! At home ask your children to teach you what they have already learned!



## Coronavirus Symptoms

The main symptoms of Coronavirus are:

- a high temperature,
- a new, continuous cough, or
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

In most cases, at least one of these symptoms will be present. If a child is displaying symptoms, we request that they self-isolate and get a test. Please do not attend the school premises if you or your child are displaying symptoms. Please inform the school of the outcome of any tests as soon as you know. Thank you.

## Beginners' Spanish lessons for Parents

If you are interested in starting to get to grips with the Spanish language yourself, Hackney Education (formerly Hackney Learning Trust) is offering free (or with a £10 donation) beginners' classes for parents and teachers, the timetable for which can be found below.



Date	Time	Venue
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	4.30 – 5.30	Online via Zoom
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	4.30 – 5.30	Parkwood Primary School, Queens Drive, N4 2HQ
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	4.30 – 5.30	Parkwood Primary School
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	4.30 – 5.30	Parkwood Primary School

If you are interested or have any questions please speak to Ms Muir at school, or contact [RTolarego@parkwood.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:RTolarego@parkwood.hackney.sch.uk) to book on to the sessions.

## School Play Therapist - James Smith

Our school play therapist James Smith resumed his weekly school visits last week. James will now be in weekly on **Fridays** and recommences his work with children and staff in school. As part of his provision, James will also be offering **parent and carer drop-in sessions**. James is a qualified therapist and a friendly, familiar face in our school community. **All sessions are voluntary, free to attend and confidential.** If you feel talking to James would be useful for you and would like to self-refer, please email James directly [jsmith@r-u-n.co.uk](mailto:jsmith@r-u-n.co.uk) and he will be in touch.



## WAMHS Initiative

We are delighted to be starting our WAMHS (Wellbeing And Mental Health in Schools) project this term, which was delayed from the Summer due to Coronavirus. A letter has been sent to all parents and carers about the initiative, which is focused on improving the support for positive wellbeing and mental health of our whole community. The approach seeks to build academic, social and emotional resilience and coping skills in pupils as well as further develop the knowledge, skills and confidence of our staff team.

### WINNING WAYS TO WELLBEING



### Parent/Carer Contact details

It is imperative that we hold the correct details for you and your child/ren. As a **minimum**, we request **two** priority contact telephone numbers in the event of an emergency. **Please ensure your details are correct, or have been updated as necessary, as a matter of urgency.** Parents and carers can do this directly through their own Arbor access, or via the school office.

### Read Write Inc.

All children in Reception to Year 2 have now started their daily *Read, Write Inc.* sessions which they are greatly enjoying. We are so impressed with how the children have settled into their routines and we have already seen some fantastic reading and writing. Remember your child will bring home a book featuring the sounds they have been focusing on each week. Please ensure you get your child to read this to you as daily reading is so important. If you would like



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any help with supporting your child with reading and/or phonics at home please speak to Ms Andrew, who will be more than happy to help! Keep an eye out for our upcoming webinar for parents all about phonics and Read, Write Inc. too!



### Outdoor Adventures

We are awaiting confirmation from Hackney Council that we can resume our regular Outdoor Adventures sessions across the school. Full risk assessments have already been drawn up by the school and we are optimistic that Outdoor Adventures will be able to resume from next week. All year groups will receive confirmation and a reminder of days/requirements (such as wellies!) from class teachers ahead of the first session.



### School photographs

We are delighted to let you know that we will be having school photos on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Please ensure that your child/children is wearing their full school uniform.



### Tuck Shop



Tuck shop will be open again from this Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you for all your contributions and support! Tuck shop will be available from 3:15pm on the corner of Arcola Street. Cash only!

### Covid-19: Preparation for Home Learning

As we are sure you are all aware, schools are busy preparing for various eventualities during this very challenging time, including partial or full school closures. We very much hope we do not get to this stage, but please also be assured that we will be ready if we do! Our current Education Continuity Plan is attached to this newsletter for your information, and is available on our school website. Please do ask the school office if you would like a hard copy. In the meantime, we would like to request families ensure they have sufficient stocks of 'school essential' stationery, such as pencils, pens, scissors and glue available at home in the event that home learning needs to resume. Please do stock up on reading books, too, if you can! A range of resources will also be provided by the school for all year groups in both hard copy and electronic form to ensure the effective continuation of the curriculum whilst children are at home.



### Information sharing

There continues to be an overwhelming amount of (changing) information in the local and national news, as well as on social media. Some of these publications are inaccurate, out of date or intentionally sensationalist. As a school, we streamline this information as much as possible to safeguard our community and ensure you have accurate, key messages in a timely manner. There are occasions when we need to share updates outside of scheduled communications and we will always keep you updated of any changes that directly affect your child/ren or our community as a whole. If you have any feedback or concerns, we always ask that you speak to a member of school staff so that we can address these with you directly.



### Extended Schools

Clubs started last week and we are very excited to have children from all different year groups signed up to different activities this term. Children are really looking forward to the adventures ahead in our fun and enriched Autumn clubs! If you haven't signed up already, please do check which clubs have some availability left and grab a space before they are all filled! The booking system is now closed so please come to the office if you would like to book. All children will be collected from the school playground. We will have 6 parents in the playground at a time so parents will need to queue from the left of Shacklewell Lane and exit from the second gate. Thank you!



### Drop off and collection

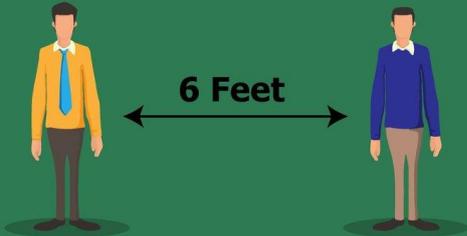
Please remember that we respectfully ask all parents and carers to adhere to distancing guidance at drop off and collection times. Please do not gather in groups outside the main gate or school office entrance. If you wish to speak to your child's class teacher, please contact the office to arrange a telephone call. If Y1 or Y2 children are early for their staggered start time, they should come into the school playground and line up with their class to alleviate some of the congestion on the narrow pavements outside the school. If Y4 or Y5 children are early for their staggered start time, please use both sides of Arcola Street to wait for your entry time. Many thanks to all families for your ongoing cooperation in preserving the safety of our community.

	Timings	Drop off/Collection
<b>Reception</b>	8.45am-3.25pm	Playground gate
<b>Year 1 (current YR)</b>	8.55am-3.35pm	Playground gate
<b>Year 2 (current Y1)</b>	9.05am-3.45pm	Playground gate
<b>Year 3 (current Y2)</b>	8.45am-3.25pm	School office
<b>Year 4 (current Y3)</b>	8.55am-3.35pm	School office
<b>Year 5 (current Y4)</b>	9.05am-3.45pm	School office

**Siblings** - Please remember that it is **earliest drop off** in the mornings and **latest collection** at the end of the day.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

Avoid close contact, allow a 6 foot distance between yourself and other people.



6 Feet

## AVOID

Handshakes, Hugs, and Large Crowds!



Reduce the spread of the Coronavirus!


safetyposter.com | 1-800-990-4080 | SP123204

### Around the World Challenge



This term Halley House will go head-to-head with the other seven schools within the BPET Trust to see which school can cover the most distance (raising money along the way)! All eight schools are encouraging their school community to take part in a unique inter-trust challenge to help raise money

for their school or respective charity. The aim is for each school to hit their individual target (5,000km) so that as a Trust we can travel around the circumference of the earth (40,075km). Weekly progress updates will be posted across each school's social media pages along with images of those taking part. We want the challenge to be inclusive and accessible to as many of our school community as possible, so you can walk, run, or cycle from just 1km to a maximum of 5km in a day. The deadline to complete the challenge is Friday 4th December. Halley House has have chosen to raise funds for our PE Department. School staff will also avidly be taking part!

### Sports for Schools

On another sporting note, we will be safely welcoming top athlete Kristian Thomas to Halley House on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>



September. Kristian is a British former artistic gymnast and was a member of the British team that won gold in the 2012 European Championships team event, and a historic bronze in the same event at the 2012 Summer Olympics. This visit follows our hugely successful athlete visit from last year. Kristian will be leading a sponsored fitness circuit with all pupils followed by an inspirational talk and Q&A session. Our aim is to inspire our pupils to take up sport generally, but just as importantly to encourage them to discover and then pursue their passion in life. All children should wear their PE kits to school on Wednesday.



Welcome to Halley House School!



Look how busy Comet Class have been!

