

# HENDON NEWS

11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

## Head of School

Dear parents, carers and children,

This week we finally welcomed back our whole school for the first time since March. Our wonderful children were excited and eager to catch up with their teachers, their friends and to move forward with their learning. This has not been an easy time, and for our Y3-5s in particular, who did not return last term, well done on such a super start to term.

It was great to see the happy, smiling faces throughout the school, and to hear so many stories after the time at home and through the summer. While, the return is not completely 'back to normal', the children have done extremely well adjusting to our 'new normal'. Thanks also, to all of our returning staff who worked so hard to make this year's Back To School run so well.

Our staff returned to school last week for 3 days of training which included Safeguarding and First Aid refreshers; and to prepare for our return. One of our key themes during these days was the continuing focus on well-being, as well as ensuring 'stretch, diversity and inclusion' in our curriculum. We are so fortunate to have such a diverse and global community at Hendon Prep and we are committed to promoting the values of kindness, equality and compassion.

Finally, thank you to all of our parents and carers who ensured that the children returned to school looking so smart and ready to engage in their learning. We appreciate all that you have done; your support with the newer aspects of our return, and all of the positive feedback.

Wishing you a lovely weekend (and Roald Dahl day on Sunday),

Mrs Gorasia

## School News

### Meet the Teacher Pre-Prep & Prep:

This year we will need to hold a number of events including 'meet the teacher' virtually. You will receive a Teams invitation from the school for this. This is a brief opportunity for parents (particularly newcomers) to 'meet' their teacher in the Pre-Prep. Parents will need to join on mute. Any general questions after the presentations can be put into the chat. This is not an appropriate time to discuss individual children.

**Tuesday 15th September - Year 2, 2pm**

**Wednesday 16th September - Year 1, 2pm**

**Thursday 17th September – Reception, 2pm**

These meetings are optional and teachers will go through routines and year group expectations.

For the Prep school, this is a very brief overview of staff, led by Mrs Gorasia and the overview of how Years 3-6 works.

**Wednesday 16th September - Prep, 10.30am**

### Cognita Connect:

Thank you to all parents who have now enrolled on our new parent app, Cognita Connect. As this is now live, it will be our main channel of communication with parents – no more paper slips and missed emails! We are very excited about this development and the improvement it will bring in the way we communicate and interact with our parents. If you haven't yet enrolled please do so to ensure you don't miss any important information.

### Jeans for Genes Day:

Hendon Prep is once again supporting Jeans for Genes Day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Children (and staff) can come into school in their jeans and a t-shirt, shirt or jumper (no football shirts please) and bring in a suggested minimum donation of £1 to support the charity Genetic Disorders UK.

## Enhancing Our Curriculum

### Deputy Donovan

*Meet Hendon Prep's new Deputy Head and Head of English.*

Mr Donovan joins Hendon Prep as Deputy Head with the experience of working with pupils across the Key Stages in mainstream, private and SEN schools. He will lead English at the school, having a proven track record for progress and attainment in 11+ exams. Mr Donovan's practice is underpinned by three core principles: children should feel happy, safe and make the best possible progress.



### Enriching Ourselves

On Wednesday the Prep School had an exciting afternoon of Enrichment. Each student was able to participate in a range of life enhancing activities to support their development as well-rounded, knowledgeable pupils. All children were able to experience yoga & fitness, mythology, team games, Sports coaching and British Sign Language. It was a brilliant opportunity for Years 3 to 6 to experience new skills, knowledge and understanding, which made for a zestful and enjoyable afternoon.



### Lunch is served

We are so proud of how our Preschool class have settled into the new term. Understandably, there was the odd tear first thing in the morning from some of the younger children who joined us on Monday. However, these tears quickly disappeared as soon as the children started their busy, activity filled days. And there were no tears during lunch – just lots of very clean plates!



### Valuing Ourselves and Each Other

The theme of this week in PSHCE was "We All Fit Together". Year 6 pupils created self-portraits focusing on their personal characteristics and what makes them unique. Students discussed the values of teamwork, equality and friendship within our school community.

