

# GATEHOUSE SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mrs Sevda Korbay MA(Ed)

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope my email finds you all well at the end of a fantastic and positive first week back. The Summer Term is a magical term, but this one is made even better with the easing of lockdown and hopefully a gentle nudge to normality.

I am writing to share with you some positive updates and new initiatives that I hope will make school life even more richer and rewarding.

This is usually the term where staff begin to think about the class splits for the new September start, working away on trying to keep friendship groups together and keeping a balance whilst creating new and exciting classes. I want to share with you that due to the children experiencing an unprecedented fragmented year with lockdown, bubble closures and self-isolating, for the next academic year I have taken the decision to move the current forms up as they are, in the same classes, in order to allow the children to enjoy their peers for a length of time that will allow for a whole school year with each other. There may be a few exceptions to the rule for those pupils that need to be moved for pastoral or Special Educational Needs reasons, but I am pleased that we continue to look for ways to repair as much as possible what has been a difficult time for the children and I am certain that they will benefit from this. For those pupils in the Nursery, because the classes move from four classes to three, the Nursery split will happen in the usual way and Nursery teachers will contact parents in the usual manner with regard to keeping them updated.

I am delighted to inform you that the Summer Holiday Club will run for the first four weeks of the Summer break; however, the school will be closed at half term and no clubs will run. Further information with regard to the Summer Club will be sent out after half term.

For those parents with pupils in Year 5, the maths and English booster classes will run in week 1 and week 4 of the summer break. Details of this will also follow after the half term.

In order to ensure that we keep all pupils with allergies safe but not lose the birthday joy of singing happy birthday and enjoying a slice of cake to mark the event, I will be piloting a school birthday cake service from the beginning of the Summer Term, which will hopefully eradicate those disappointing situations when cakes do not meet the nut free criteria and have to be sent back home. Denis, the school chef, will make delicious cakes and decorate them accordingly, where they will then be delivered to class to be enjoyed by the children. The cost for each cake will be £7, and the cakes can be ordered via the main office, at least

two weeks in advance of the birthday. The Summer Term brings with it many birthdays and this scheme is intended to make life a little easier with regard to ensuring that all pupils in each class can enjoy the occasion (alternative options will be available for those pupils with a range of allergies).

A gentle reminder that assessment week will commence the day after May bank holiday, week beginning 4th May for Years 1,4 and 5. The outcomes of these assessments, along with teacher assessments, will inform the teacher if there are any catch-up needs which can be supported prior to the summer break.

In order for everyone to stay hydrated and safe in the beautiful weather and increased time outdoors, please continue to provide named water bottles and ensure that sunscreen is applied in the morning, before children arrive at school.

For all of the up and coming events please check the School Calendar which is located on the website.

As always, I want to thank you all for your support, patience and commitment to the school.

My closing quote today reflects the joy of having the children back in school and the sunshine back in our lives; "Find the joy. When you feel it, let it wash over you ... take a moment to appreciate it" (Katie Couric).

Kind regards,

Mrs Korbay

Mrs Sevda Korbay MA (Ed)

Head