



William Ford CE Junior School

Weekly Newsletter Autumn Term 1 Week 1

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back! I trust you have had a wonderful summer. It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to you, having been appointed to the role of Headteacher at William Ford C of E Junior School.

I wanted to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself to you and to express my enthusiasm for the exciting times ahead. My name is David Huntingford and I join you from St. Margaret's C of E Primary School in Barking, a school that I have had the privilege to lead for the past two and a half years through a period of many challenges and rapid school improvement. I have had nine years of school leadership experience at various levels. I am originally from Chingford, London and grew up from the age of ten in Frinton-on-Sea, Essex. Barking and Dagenham holds a special place in my heart as it is the authority in which I began my teaching career.

I also have experience of teaching in Newham and Redbridge along with volunteer teaching in Ghana, South Africa and Kazakhstan. My qualifications come from the University of Wales Swansea, University of Exeter and University of Alberta, Canada as well as gaining my Headteacher qualification from the Institute of Education, part of University College London. I am married and have two lovely children, aged eight and three, so I more than understand the challenges and anxieties raising children and schooling can bring! I am a member of my local church in Brentwood, Essex, hence developing the Christian ethos of the school is of importance to me.

I want to build on the fantastic work that has been started at William Ford, which has been led so well by Mr Hopkins, whom I thank and wish every success in his new role, working for the Diocese of Chelmsford. My thanks also go to Mr. Buckingham who has stepped into the role of Interim Head, providing stability during Mr. Hopkins' absence, as well as being invaluable in helping me get to know William Ford School.

My team and I will continue to be fully focused on teaching and learning with a relentless drive to achieve high standards for all pupils along with an exciting range of curricular and extra-curricular activities. The energy and enthusiasm the staff team demonstrate is something I have already noticed, and I am thankful for how welcome the team made me feel during my visit days.

Once possible and appropriate, I do plan to hold some coffee mornings to meet parents but, until then, I will regularly be present in the playground and at the school gate. Do please come and say hello.

Mr. David Huntingford
Headteacher

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am
with you; do not be dismayed,
for I am your God. I will strengthen
you and help you; I will uphold you
with my righteous right hand.





Welcome Year Three!

At the start of the year, it is wonderful to welcome the newest members to our school family, our new Year Three intake.

Only last year, my son moved from an infant to a junior school so I fully appreciate what a significant milestone this is, not only in your child's educational journey but also within their life.

I have every confidence that your child will be extremely happy here. If you do ever have any questions or concerns, do please let me know.

Covid-19 arrangement

As you are aware, we currently have staggered times for the drop off and collection of children. Already we have made some slight changes and we are continually assessing and reviewing to see what we can improve. We recognise how congested the driveway that connects us with Village Infant School and Ford Road Children's Centre has become and we are actively working with Barking and Dagenham Council to see how we can further develop to improve social distancing. Parents, please could we request that once you have your child at the end of the day, you leave the site immediately and if you are waiting for another older child, you keep your younger children with you. I must say how impressed I am with how the children have adjusted to the 'new normal' and it is wonderful to see so many children back at school. Well done everyone!

100 Government

NHS

STAY ALERT
CONTROL
THE VIRUS
SAVE LIVES

Building works

I am delighted to share that, during the summer break, all of the pupil toilets have been refurbished. We have also had pipe work and sinks refurbished across the school, improving access to hot water. Equipment and benches in the playground have been painted and the outdoor areas have been weeded and improved. My thanks goes to Mr. Young who has worked incredibly hard over the summer break and has ensured that the builders have kept to their very tight schedule in order that we could open the school on time!



Inset day

Just a quick reminder that the school will be closed to pupils on Friday 25th September for one of our five staff training days across the academic year. Our previous inset day, held on the 1st September, provided us with an opportunity to update and refresh our safeguarding knowledge, ensure all staff are aware of our Covid-19 risk assessment as well as planning for our exciting art and literacy projects.

Key Term Dates

Summer Term 2020 First Half (24 days)

Tuesday 1st September - Non-pupil Day

Wednesday 2nd September - Children return to school

Friday 25th September - Non-pupil Day

Friday 23rd October - Break up school – Half Term

Monday 2nd November - Children return to school

Friday 18th December - Break up school – Christmas



Learning from Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, to work diligently, act generously and live at peace with everyone.

Psalm 34:14 - Seek peace and pursue it.

Have you been wondering what your children were up to in school?

Well, wonder no more....



Year Three have quickly settled into life at William Ford School and we have been impressed by their eagerness to learn and how excited they have been to join our school. They have been using the book 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers to reconnect with each other and school life. This has included writing a poem about their favourite place and thinking about people who are special to them. We have begun to learn about the artwork of Andy Warhol and have created our own



portraits of Kermit the Frog using his colourful artistic style. Year 3 have also been strengthening our key skills in Maths by practising our times tables and number bonds. Well done Year 3 for a brilliant first week!

It has been lovely to welcome **Year 4** back to school after such a long time away. In P.S.H.E., we have discussed how our lives at home have changed since the introduction of lockdown. We then talked about how school have made many changes to keep us all safe. After that, we created a poster of what the 'new normal' in our school looks like. In art, Year 4 have started an art project based on



the work of the artist Keith Haring. We examined some of Haring's work and then created our own artwork incorporating elements of Haring's style and adding some of our own ideas. We also took our inspiration out into playground to create some pieces of outdoor artwork. In maths, we have started to practise our addition and subtraction skills.



Year Five have been focusing on re-acclimatising the children back into school with a strong focus on PSHE, also using a story called Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers. We have had a lot of discussion about the children's experiences of lockdown - what they were and weren't able to do and how they felt about it. We have asked the children to write about these feelings and to think about their place in the world and the things that they like doing and places where they like to be. Each class



is producing a class journal recording these reflections. We have also produced posters about what the 'new normal' is like. Alongside this work, we have been doing art, studying an artist called Georgia O'Keefe, whose work focusses largely on the natural world.

We are working towards producing our own original pieces modelled on her work. In PE, we worked on fitness and conditioning activities to get ourselves moving energetically again after the long period of lockdown.

Year Six have enjoyed being back at school after such a long time and have been getting used to the 'new normal'. To help each other remember some of the changes that are keeping us all safe, the pupils have designed and produced posters outlining some key points such as regular hand washing and eating lunch in class. The pupils have also taken part in their first PE lesson and



have started by working on their fitness in a circuit session although they will be moving

onto a unit of gymnastics over the coming weeks. We are also excited to be working on a special art project based on African art and have started by looking at what inspires African patterns such as animals, plants and geometrical patterns.



The pupils have started to practise their own designs and we are aiming for them to be able to print these onto their own photo frames.