

Dear all,

## **Welcome back!**

I hope you all had a lovely summer break and have taken the time to enjoy yourselves.

## **Summer Changes**

During the summer break, staff have been busy preparing the school for the year ahead. Mr Smith (Caretaker) has done a fantastic job; particularly by giving the trees a trim and completing a lot of the outside painting. Mrs Culver (Y6) has painted the staff study, Mrs Smith (TA) has painted Class 3 and together (with Mrs Culver's family) they have painted the staff room / Breakfast Club room. The staff have made the classrooms look fantastic – all with exciting, supportive and educational environments.

The newest change to our school environment is the 'Legacy Trail' on the school field. We were lucky enough to have had a National Lottery bid accepted in order to get this built and, back at the beginning of the Summer Term, the Year 6s who led and organised the School Council, were able to choose the elements of the trail and name it. It will be used at break times and lunch times, and possibly as part of PE lessons too.

We also warmly welcome four new members of staff to the school. Mr Brown is the new class teacher in year 3, Mrs Andrews will be sharing teaching responsibility with Mrs Diplock in year 4, Miss Walker is the new class teacher in year 5 and last but not least, Mrs Grieves is our new Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). We wish them many happy years at Lenham Primary School.

## **Break Times**

We are very lucky with the grounds we have at our school, so we like to use them as much as possible. Please can you make sure that your child has a pair of named wellingtons in school, so they are able to go and play on the field at break and lunch times. Those who do not have wellingtons in school, will not be able to go onto the field, if the surface is damp. If there are only a few pupils who do not have boots in school, it may be that they are required to stay in at break times, in order to maximise the supervision of pupils who are outside.

## **Food**

Pupils in Rainbow class, Year 1 and Year 2, are provided with fruit at morning break. Pupils in other years may also bring in fruit snacks from home to take outside with them.

Ideas for healthy packed lunches can also be found on websites such as:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/childhealth6-15/Pages/Lighterlunchboxes.aspx>

<http://www.nhs.uk/change4life/Pages/healthy-lunchbox-picnic.aspx>

We also need to remind you that we are now a 'Nut-Free School'. This does not just mean avoiding nuts themselves in lunchboxes, but also any food which may contain traces of nuts. We need to keep every pupil at our school safe, so please help us to ensure that we can do this.

## **Communication**

We are always looking at ways in which we can improve our communications with you. The weekly emails were a success last year, so we shall be continuing with them this year.

Mrs Coshall (School Business Manager) has also had meetings this summer regarding the much-needed upgrade of our school website. This will be launched soon and will include copies of the weekly emails and a calendar of events. Watch this space for further details: <http://www.lenham.kent.sch.uk/default.aspx>

It is now possible to follow the school on Twitter. We hope we can use it as a way of sharing interesting websites with you and events which have happened, or are happening, at school. At this time, it will not be a way we will be able to communicate with individuals. Find us on Twitter: [@LenhamPrimary](#)

We will also be keeping you up to date with the events happening at the school by our monthly newsletters. Keep an eye out for them at the end of each month.

### **Olympic Legacy**

Our school has a history of strong links to the Olympics, dating back to 2010, when we worked with Kent County Council in the lead up to London 2012. Although our links have endeavoured to encourage children's participation in sport (in and out of school), we have also developed the range of activities we offer to our pupils.

The school's values system, 'P.R.I.D.E.', stands for: 'personal excellence', 'respect and friendship', 'inspiration', 'determination and courage' and 'equality and fairness'. These values are an amalgamation of the values from the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Pupils are encouraged to follow these values and are given 'P.R.I.D.E. Awards' if they show exceptional examples in these areas.

We are also at the beginning of a new cycle of re-naming our school houses. Pre-2012, our houses were named: (Sir Steve) Redgrave, (Daley) Thompson, (Sally) Gunnell and (Dame Kelly) Holmes. After the 2012 Olympics, the teams met and re-named the groups: (Victoria) Pendleton, (Andy) Murray, (Jessica) Ennis (Hill) and (Mo) Farah. Once the Paralympics is completed, we will once again be re-naming our houses in honour of those Olympians or Paralympians who have achieved amazing results and whose progress we can follow for the next four years.

Encourage your children over the next week to watch some of the Paralympics, as they will be being used as a learning tool in school – especially in our PSHE lessons, PE lessons and in our assemblies.

*New initiative! This term on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays we will be holding a 'personal best' exercise challenge on the field from 8:30 – 8:45 . This is open to all staff, parents and children. You are welcome to walk or run around the field to improve general fitness and be the best you can be! No-one will lead this activity – just turn up and have some fun at the start of the day! Please be aware of weather conditions and ensure that you and your children wear appropriate footwear.*

### **Dates for the diary**

Attached to this letter is a list of dates for your diary. It is highly likely, as the year progresses, that other dates will be added to this list, and some may need to be changed. We will make sure you are informed as soon as possible.