

# Lady Margaret Primary School

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**Head teacher:** Mrs H Rai MA NPOH NPOFI **Chair of Governors:** Mr S Prebble



RST

## Headteacher's welcome letter

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

All the staff were excited to greet children this week for the new school year. After the disruption of the past 18 months, the idea that we will be able to do even more in school is a great motivator and opens the possibility to us developing new and exciting plans for the year ahead with enthusiasm. My special thanks to the Early Years team for their considerate and warm approach to the newest families in the school.

Ms Bartholomew and Mr Peacock welcomed about 20 children into school for a week of summer school learning. Well done to those children who attended as I think this will really help you to be ready for Y6 and a huge thank you to Mrs Bartholomew and Mr Peacock for giving up a week of their holiday to support the children.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the site staff and Mrs Hancock, the school business manager, who worked tirelessly during the holidays to ensure all works were completed and the school was cleaned and organised to a high standard ready to welcome the children back.

Before the summer we made several decisions that we hope will avoid further COVID related disruption but allow us to once again enjoy a thriving school. The children should arrive at school and be dropped at the gates by parents (except children in EYFS and Y1) at 8.40. We will operate a soft start system again so they go directly to their classrooms to start their learning. Please bring your child to school **on time every day**. At the end of the day when you have collected your children, please move out of school swiftly. We are no longer operating a "bubble system" and the wearing of masks will be optional (although we advise this as a good idea during the autumn term). I do request that you maintain a social distance from the teachers at all times.

The school office is now open although communication by email and phone is preferable. We plan to increase the number of onsite meetings that parents might attend based upon infection and transmission rates. This includes **meet the teacher** meetings which will take place in the week of 13<sup>th</sup> September, **open evenings** in the week of 4<sup>th</sup> October and, of course, **class assemblies** (more details to follow on all school events). Please check the weekly newsletters for information about upcoming events. My absolute priority is that teaching staff can be here and

lead face to face teaching with remote learning being a final resort so if transmission rates rise I may have to take the decision to keep events and meetings for parents on line.

Some important information:

- **Attendance at school is compulsory and it is vital that children are brought to school, or arrive independently, in good time.**
- Your child should be in **school uniform** every day. We have a huge amount of lost property and uniform donations from ex pupils so if you need uniform please speak to the school office staff. On their PE day, your child must come to school in PE kit. This must be uniform kit; no other sportswear is allowed.
- Most importantly, you must **read with your child** every night and ensure they bring in their reading record, which is checked by teachers daily. Please ensure your child has a school book bag.
- If your child is moving up to Year 3 then **lunches** must be paid for unless they are eligible for free school meals (check emails from the school over the summer).
- The new catering company, ISS, requires medically verified information about allergies. Without this, only meals from the regular menu will be served.
- Check your payment methods have been set up with ISS – without payment a meal will not be served (with the exception of pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 or those confirmed as eligible for free school meals).
- If you are in any doubt, please send a packed lunch to school with your child until you are sure any queries with ISS have been addressed.

Finally, I would like to extend a warm welcome to new members of our teaching team:

- Ms Curie (Year 5)
- Ms Coleman (Year 3)
- Ms Vijayanandam (Year 1)

As a reminder, Ms Kumar is acting assistant Headteacher whilst Ms Bal is on maternity leave.

With best wishes

Mrs Helen Rai



Headteacher