



Undershaw

Undershaw
Hindhead
Surrey GU26 6AQ

01428 609953
hello@undershaw.education
www.undershaw.education

17 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope that you have had a good week and are settling back into the school routine. As a response to your requests for improved communication with the school, we are planning to send something out to you on a weekly basis. This may be a letter from me, an update email or a newsletter. Please look out for this each Friday so that you are not missing important information or missing out on our celebration of what's going on at school.

This week the Key Stage 2 classes had a visit from Willy Wonka and two Oompa Loompas to introduce their new thematic learning topic of 'Chocolate'. They were treated to an Oompa Loompa dance and a quiz all about chocolate...which the children did very well at, as you can imagine! We have photos of this surprise visit, and they will be included in our first newsletter of the term.

We have also celebrated National Teaching Assistant Day this week. It's a great opportunity for us to thank those staff for all the incredible work that they do every day for the children and to recognise their important contribution to the school. We are so lucky to have such a fabulous team.

Therapy

The therapy team at Undershaw is also a real asset to the school and do incredible work with our young people. Please find attached some information about the therapy staff and the offer that they have put in place for the children this academic year.

Staff Training

This week our teaching assistants and teachers were treated to a fabulous training session led by the Therapy Team exploring the Zones of Regulation in more detail, and how this model can be used successfully to support students in the classroom. We run weekly professional development sessions for all our staff and support formal qualification routes to ensure that all staff are fully prepared for the role that they have in the school.

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Macmillan Coffee “Afternoon” – cakes, cuppas and cash at the ready!

Next Friday, 24 September we will be hosting a Coffee Afternoon to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. We will welcome parents on site from 2.30pm to gather on the lawn for tea and cake. You may take your child home with you once you are ready to leave and have signed them out with the member of staff by the drive. If you would like to attend, please confirm with Karen, karen.marshall@undershaw.education. Any donations of cakes for the event would be very welcome and can be dropped off in the morning at Reception. Thank you!

Employability & Life Skills

Please may we remind you that on 24 September, from 1.30pm to 2.30pm, Post 16 will host a Presentation and Q&A with guest speakers from:

- Surrey Choices – Supported Internship Programme
- ASK – Apprenticeships, Support and Knowledge Programme

You are warmly invited to attend this event at the Media and Arts Centre, Tower Road site. These sessions are open to all parents. Please email leilah.sheridan@undershaw.education to confirm your place. If you are unable to attend, please email any questions to the same address and we will endeavour to ask on your behalf.

Homework

We will be setting homework tasks for students this term to help them build good habits for learning and to also enable them to embed some of their learning by revisiting or exploring further. As this is quite new for some students, we will be encouraging them to do some work at home and rewarding any student who does complete the tasks. We will have a gentle start with homework this half term and evaluate how successful it is and how best to support the students with this moving forward. Please remember that we run Homework Club, Monday – Thursday from 3pm – 4pm, for any students who wish to stay on site and complete this work.

Alumni

We are always very proud of our students and what they go on to achieve after their time with us, whether this be a supported internship, college course and further education or employment. We embed life skills in everything we do, and our Employability Team design a bespoke Post 16 provision to ensure that all our leavers move on to something meaningful. It was particularly wonderful to meet Joe and Jess at our recent Founders’ Day. These amazing young people have gone on to graduate from university since leaving us and have a very bright future ahead of them. Please take a look at the Q&A session with them that was part of our Founders’ Day celebrations. They are on our website under “News” and the links to the clips are also on the attached flyer.

Upcoming dates

Finally, another reminder of upcoming dates. Please note these are not exhaustive and updates will be communicated. Please also be aware of an amendment to the November INSET days, as listed below.

Autumn Term 2021/22

| Date | Time | Event | Organiser |
|--------------------------------|--|---|-----------|
| Fri, 24 Sept 2021 | 1.30pm | Surrey Choices Talk | Leilah |
| Fri, 24 Sept 2021 | 2.30pm | Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Afternoon – on the U/S Lawn | |
| Mon, 27 Sept 2021 | TBC | Yr 11 for nasal flu immunisations | Nanci |
| Fri, 22 Oct 2021 | Last day of half-term – normal finish time of 3.05pm | | |
| Mon, 25 Oct to Mon, 1 Nov 2021 | Half-term | | |
| Tues, 2 Nov 2021 | Staff INSET | | |
| Wed, 3 Nov 2021 | 8.30am | Pupils return – school re-opens | |
| Fri, 17 Dec 2021 | Last day of term – finish time of 12 noon | | |
| Tues, 4 Jan 2022 | 8.30am | Pupils return – first day of Spring Term 2022 | |

As always, thank you for your continued support, and please do get in contact should you have anything that you would like to discuss.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Emma West
Acting Headteacher

atts: Therapy News Sept 21
Founders' Day flyer