

9 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

After a wonderful first week back, welcoming existing and new students into Team Undershaw, we were deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of Her Majesty The Queen, and our thoughts are with the Royal Family at this time. A very much loved and respected Monarch with an unwavering sense of duty. A constant in our lives.

Today, to show our gratitude for the way in which The Queen shaped a century with kindness, humility, diplomacy and faithfulness to duty, we observed a minute's silence across the school. We also watched the *Newsround* broadcast and discussed our thoughts and feelings at this very sad time. We will continue to support any students who are affected by these events over the coming weeks.

As the nation enters into a period of national mourning that will continue until the end of the State Funeral, we will take advice from the Government and DfE and will keep you updated when they issue further guidance and information over the coming days.

Timings for the school day

A quick recap on the slight change to the school day which we announced last term. As a result of this, please note that students are expected to be **in school by 9.00am** at the latest. We will be delivering our integrated SaLT and OT each morning from 8.45am. Therefore, going forward, please be aware a late mark will be entered if a student arrives after this time. Thank you for your help with this.

Breakfast Club	8.15am
Drop off	8.30-8.45am *arrivals after 9.00am will be marked as late
Tutor time	8.45-9.15am (to include integrated SaLT and OT)
Lesson 1	9.15-10.20am
Break	10.20-10.35am
Lesson 2	10.35-11.40am
Lesson 3	11.40am-12.45pm
Lunch	12.45-1.25pm
DEAR	1.25-1.45pm
Lesson 4	1.45-2.50pm
Depart/end of the day	2.50-3.05pm
Homework Club	3.05-4.00pm

Reverse Parents' Evenings – Wednesday, 14 and Thursday, 15 September

As you will have seen from my letter sent yesterday, the first of our regular Parents' Evenings events will be taking place next week. As this will be the first Parents' Evening event for this year, we like to offer all parents a "reverse parents' meeting", which will provide an opportunity for you to meet your child's form teacher and TA, and allow you to lead the discussion and let us know how your child's summer was, how we can help them settle back into school, what works to motivate your child and anything else you feel we need to know. We really like to welcome you onsite for this, if possible, so that you can see your child's form room. However, we appreciate this is not always convenient, so offer the alternative on the second day of a virtual meeting, via our online booking system, SchoolCloud. If you should have any queries regarding SchoolCloud, please contact our Family Liaison Officer, Maddy (maddy.annis-wilkinson@undershaw.education) in the first instance who will be able to help. Please note that all appointments including the onsite appointments should be made through SchoolCloud. Thank you.

Homework Club

Earlier this week, you will have seen an email giving some details about Homework Club which we offer after school on Monday to Thursday. There is no charge for Homework Club, and you are able to make bookings using the Homework Club email, homeworkclub@undershaw.education. We would ask please for your co-operation in pre-booking so that we can ensure we have the correct staff:student ratio. The Club runs from 3.05pm until 4.00pm, at which time the children will be dismissed collectively by the member of staff who is on Homework Club duty. (Please note this is a change from the previous procedure when pick-up times could be ad hoc.) During the session, the students will be able to complete any homework that has been issued to them, with the support, where necessary, from the member of staff on duty. If there has been no homework issued to your child, they will be able to use the time for catching up on reading, the Lexia literacy programme, Mathswatch, etc. This is part of our curriculum provision so please ensure that your child is aware that they are staying, and the expectation to complete additional work. If you should have any queries in the first instance, please contact Karen or Abby who will be able to help you.

Curriculum Pulse

Please see the link below for this year's first edition of *Curriculum Pulse* which provides details both about the learning planned for this term, and about our Project Based Learning programme.

<https://undershaw.education/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2022/09/Curriculum-Pulse-September-22.pdf>

Housekeeping

Milk-bottle lids and crisp packets: a quick reminder please that we would be grateful for any milk-bottle lids and crisp packets as we forward these to the *Pathfinder* charity that raises money for guide-dogs.

"Pot-noodle" or similar: please can these not be brought into school as a lunch meal as they obviously require boiling water.

NOAH lessons

We have been asked to pass on a message from Tim, our Forest School Leader, regarding suitable clothing and footwear for NOAH lessons, especially on cold and wet days. Please make sure your child brings in waterproofs and appropriate outdoor footwear. For students who arrive without these, we hold a good supply of jackets and trousers at school. If your child will struggle to wear waterproofs/suitable clothing/appropriate footwear due to sensory issues, please can you ensure they are provided with a spare set of dry clothes and shoes on NOAH days. Thank you.

Parent/Carer Clinic

Our emotional therapists, Tiffany and Kate, would like to start a parent/carers clinic every other Thursday (hopefully starting next Thursday, 15 September), and we have been asked to let you have some preliminary details. The clinic is an opportunity for parents or carers, whose children are either on the emotional therapies waiting list or not being seen, to book in to discuss any concerns they may have regarding their child's mental health and general wellbeing. They will be available from 1.00-2.30pm. If you would like to book a slot, please email Tiffany: tiffany.sanders@undershaw.education. These appointments can be in person, on the telephone or via Teams.

Physical Activity lessons

As you will already be aware from your child's timetable, each year group will be accessing PE once a week. These sessions will take place outdoors, unless the weather is too bad and then we will use the school Hall. Sessions will focus on a variety of sports, fitness, strength training and teamwork. To ensure the comfort and safety of all students we ask that on the days they have PE they either bring in a separate PE kit to change into or wear appropriate clothing. Changing rooms are available for students. All students should wear trainers to reduce the risk of slips and trips and no jeans please.

Positives of the week!

We really do appreciate it when parents and visitors take the time to email in and give us feedback, so please let us know if you have anything you would like to share. Here is just one comment that we received this week...

This from a parent to their child's tutor:

"This is, without doubt the best day he has ever had at school - and thank you all for all your patience and support. He even commented how much support he got - and he never comments about school, ever!!"

Upcoming dates

Here are our upcoming dates – and please note these are not exhaustive and updates will be communicated.

Date	Time	Event	Organiser
Wed, 14 Sept	3.30pm-5.30pm	Reverse Parents' Evening – on site	
Thurs, 15 Sept	3.30pm-4.30pm	Reverse Parents' Evening – virtually, via SchoolCloud	
Thurs, 22 Sept		Open Morning for Yr 7 transition students for Sept 23	
Wed, 28 Sept		Open Morning for prospective families	Admissions
Fri, 30 Sept	TBA	Macmillan Coffee Morning (more info to follow)	
Wed, 5 Oct	TBA	West Surrey Immunisation Team visit (more info to follow)	
Wed, 19 Oct		Open Morning for prospective families	Admissions
Tues, 11 Oct	afternoon	Founders' Day (more info to follow)	
Thurs, 20 Oct	3.30pm	KS4 and Post 16 Parents' Evening (more info to follow)	
Fri, 21 Oct		End of ½ term – normal finish time of 3.05pm	
Mon 24 – Fri, 28 Oct		October Half-term	
Mon, 31 Oct	8.30am	Pupils return – first day of Autumn Term 2nd ½	

Date	Time	Event	Organiser
Wed, 16 Nov	3.30pm	KS2 and KS3 Parents' Evening (more info to follow)	
Thurs, 17 Nov	3.30pm	KS2 and KS3 Parents' Evening (more info to follow)	
Fri, 18 Nov		"Children in Need"	
Fri, 16 Dec		Celebration Assembly Last day of term – finish time of 12 noon	
Tues, 3 Jan 2023		INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED	
Wed, 4 Jan 2023	8.30am	Pupils return – first day of Spring Term 2023	

And finally, 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
Headteacher