



HALLING

Primary School

Howismere Close, Halling, Rochester, Kent, ME2 1ER

Telephone - 01634 240258 email - office@halling.medway.sch.uk

Wednesday 10th March 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been lovely to walk around the school throughout the week and see the children settle back so beautifully. I'm so proud of them! Thank you also to you all at home for your continued support throughout the lockdown and beyond.

Since becoming Headteacher at Halling Primary School, a number of areas have been identified that need to be worked upon in order to improve the overall provision for the children.

In fact, during my first month at Halling, I led a couple of parent meetings (please see the attached PowerPoint) where I highlighted the following areas for improvement:

- Improve the quality of education for all pupils (in particular for SEND pupils and disadvantaged pupils)
- Give pupils a meaningful voice in the growth of the school
- Further develop relationships with parents and carers
- Enhance Halling's profile in the wider community

Further explained in the PowerPoint was to raise expectations in teaching and learning (across the school), support all learners to achieve their full potential and monitoring - this will be our main priority for the rest of the academic year.

From what we have read in recent media, it would seem that parents too still have concerns around these areas, least of all Special Educational Needs.

Mr Muggridge (CEO), the Governing Board and I will be meeting regularly across this term to evaluate our School Improvement Plan and create a detailed plan as to how we move forward.

SEND

As agreed, SEND is an area which most certainly needs to be developed. Our new SENDCO - Miss Eakins - has started off very positively and Mrs Connolly who works across the Trust has been working very closely with Miss Eakins and I to develop the provision.

In Term 5, Miss Eakins and I would like to lead a SEND meeting (virtually) where we would like to invite as many parents as possible to come and share what is working well, what they feel may still need improving and suggestions of next steps. Ultimately, this will allow you to have a voice and support us in moving the SEND provision forwards.

Compassion • Integrity • Thankfulness • Respect • Resilience

COMMUNITY VOICE

To support pupil voice, staff will be meeting with pupils across the school to ensure they have a greater ownership of their learning. Prior to lockdown, you would have noticed that in the newsletter, there was a section dedicated to pupil voice and we feel that this is important so it will be returning.

To develop relationships with parents and carers, our Facebook page has been excellent to liaise with you and through parental questionnaires, SeeSaw has also been fantastic for developing relationships with staff. We will continue using SeeSaw for Home Learning and this term.

Later in the term we will be holding a parent forum meeting, where we will be inviting you to come and discuss any issues, suggestions or ideas that you have.

One reoccurring theme recently is the school's Social Media Policy. We feel that this would be a good opportunity at this meeting to discuss this with parents so that everyone can have an input and understand why certain sections are included, it really would be good to review the document together.

Again, we hope that this will give you a voice and give us a chance to discuss many aspects of school life together. This will be in addition to the weekly and termly newsletters, which we hope help to keep you as informed as possible.

Miss Stoner has been instrumental in enhancing the school's profile in the wider community and this will continue to be a priority for the rest of the academic year.

STAFFING

I would like to update you on a couple of teaching staff changes for terms 5 and 6. We will sadly be saying goodbye to three teachers at the end of this term.

Miss Dilallo will be moving to a new school in pursuit of career progression. I would like to thank Miss Dilallo for all her hard work over the past couple of years and I wish her all the very best for the future. I'm certain she will be successful in her teaching career.

Mrs Mauldon and Mrs Woolmer will be sadly also leaving us at the end of Term 4. Mrs Mauldon and Mrs Woolmer will be leaving for their own personal reasons. Mrs Mauldon will be looking into teaching positions where the passions lie, and Mrs Woolmer will be taking a step back from the profession for a while.

Mrs Mauldon and Mrs Woolmer have been here at Halling for 20 years and I know have supported many families over the years. It will be ever so sad to see them both go but I'm certain they will stay in contact - in fact, you may well see Mrs Woolmer on the other side of the gate when dropping off/ picking up her grandchildren, so she will still be very much a part of the Halling community.

Following the support and dedication they have both shown over the years at Halling, I would very much like to collate a book of memories for each of them and present in term 6 when we can hopefully invite them back for a proper farewell - restrictions permitting of course. If you would like to be involved in collating memories and creating the book with me, please let me know - the more the merrier!

In year 4, Miss Dorran will be starting and taking over Fiji class. Miss Dorran is very excited to join the team and will be visiting the school prior to Easter to meet pupils and staff. Mrs Brown will be covering Wales class and is a very experienced EYFS teacher. Mrs Harris will continue in Scotland class for continuity. Miss Eakins will become full time and oversee Reception in terms 5 and 6. Mr Martin, who is very excited to be joining the team, will be starting in term 5 covering Brazil class. We truly have worked incredibly hard to find the very best people to be working with your children, so I am sure that you will work with us to make them feel welcome at our school.

LEADERSHIP

To support with leadership capacity, a Teaching and Learning Advisor will be in school in terms 5 and 6 to support the Senior Leadership Team in ensuring that teaching and learning across the school is at least good, if not outstanding.

We will also be recruiting a full time Deputy Headteacher to start in September. We would love your involvement in the process - more information to follow.

MOVING FORWARDS

We clearly still have improvements to make, but we must work together in order to do the very best for the children. I can assure you that the Trust, Governing Board and I have the pupils at the heart of all our decisions. As you can see from the areas highlighted, children and working together are central to all.

Unfortunately, over the year there have been many challenges from outside which have affected many people. There have admittedly also been changes in school in terms of expectations and direction. Our current staff team are passionate, dedicated and committed; as are the new teachers that are coming in. I am so proud of the team we have at Halling!

We would fully appreciate everyone's commitment in supporting the school. We are a community school and teamwork is at the heart of all that we do. Let's work together to ensure our pupils receive the best quality of education.

Thank you again for your continued support. The Trust and the Governing Board have been fantastic at supporting the school and I would like to take the opportunity to thank them all too.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Selmi