



Halam Church of England Primary School

Life in all its fullness

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Aly Speed

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Friday, 19 April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a start to the Summer Term! Thank you all for your support during this difficult time, there is more information at the end of the newsletter about the flood and the clear up plan.



Terrific Assembly Awards

We will still nominate children from Cherry Class for the Terrific Assembly Awards, and they will receive them during Special Assembly at Lowe's Wong Infant School.

Well done this week to:

Cherry Class: Clara for super story writing.

Franki for doing brilliant Maths.

Maple Class: Ben for excellent perseverance in art.

Thomas for writing an excellent character description.

Oak Class: Amelia B for trying hard in all subjects.

Sylvie for always smiling and being enthusiastic!

Dora for being enthusiastic about her online learning on Tuesday.

Head Team Award: Martha for being kind.

Lunchtime "Good Manners" Awards: Klay, Archie & Isaac

Best attendance this week: Maple with 100%

Housepoints: First – **Sapphire** (24)

Second = – **Emerald** & **Ruby** (17)



Birthdays: Sienna



Dates for the diary:

Wednesday, 24 April

Monday, 6 May

Friday, 10 May

Monday, 13 May

Tuesday, 21 May

Friday, 24 May

Monday, 3 June

Tuesday, 4 June

Monday, 10 June

Monday, 17 June

Tuesday, 18 June

Thursday, 27 June

Monday, 1 July

Thursday, 4 July

Thursday, 11 July

Tuesday, 16 July

Tuesday, 23 July

Friday, 26 July

Minster School students doing work experience at Halam

School closed for Bank Holiday

Class Photographs

Year 6 SATs week

PTFA meeting

Break up for Half Term

INSET Day

Children return to school

Year 6 Residential to PGL

Bikeability week for Oak Class

Cherry Class "Time Travelling" Southwell Minster

Year 6 Transition Afternoon at Southwell Minster School

Year 6 Transition Day at Southwell Minster School

Choir singing at MITRE Schools Concert

Sports Day

Summer Performances 2pm & 6pm

Leavers' Church Service 9.15am

Leavers' Assembly in school 9.15am

Break up for the Summer Holidays



Friendly Football Match

The match has been rearranged for Monday, 22 April at Farnsfield School – everyone is welcome to go and watch the game.

Flood update

Thank you all for your support and understanding during what has been a really tricky time. I thought it would be useful for you all to know what has happened, and where we have got to in the recovery plan. I do understand that what has been put in place is absolutely not ideal by any means, but we are trying to do the best we can for the children at our school.

On Monday morning, Mr Gent (our cleaner in charge) called me very early to say that there was a flood in school. When I arrived at school at 6am there was several inches of water in Maple Room's toilets and Cherry Classroom, and the water had spread through to the Little Cherry Classroom, the Hall, Maple Classroom, Oak Classroom, Oak's toilets and the corridor in between. The source of the leak was a split flexi-pipe under the sink in Maple toilets.

Very quickly Mr Gent was able to isolate the pipe and stop the leak, but obviously the scale of the damage was too great for us to open the school on Monday.

On Monday a flood response team were appointed, they arrived on Monday afternoon and removed the wet carpets, and cleaned and sanitized the floors.

Due to the extent of the damage throughout school, and particular in the Cherry Classrooms it was decided that the Cherries would temporarily move to Lowe's Wong Infant School and that Maple and Oak Classes would move to online learning until their classrooms could be made safe.

On Tuesday a response team came back to school to install dryers and make Maple and Oak classrooms and Oak toilets suitable and safe for pupils and staff to use. This meant that we could re-open for Junior pupils on Wednesday.

A Loss Adjuster has been appointed, and Mrs Straw (MITRE Chief Operating Officer) and I have been liaising with both the insurance company and the recovery team.

We briefly considered using the Village Hall for some pupils, but this building is not suitable due to the lack of mobile signal, the toilet facilities, the poor internet connection, and the lack of outdoor space. We also asked the Loss Adjuster about the possibility of having a temporary classroom (porta-cabin) but this would take many weeks to be in place.

The next stage of the works is to repair the damage to the Cherry Classrooms, the Hall and Maple toilets. The recovery team are currently testing samples of the flooring, as due to the age of the parquet flooring in the Hall and under the carpeting in the Little Cherry Classroom the glue used is likely to be a bitumen based one, which may contain a small amount of asbestos. If any asbestos is detected then a specialist company will advise and support the teams working in school. The contractors will then replace the floorings throughout those areas, and we have already started to compile a list of the damaged furniture, books and equipment which need to be replaced.

Once those areas have been made good, we will move Maple and Oak Classes through to this end of school, so that the work can be done on their classrooms. Depending on how many areas we have at our disposal we may well be able to welcome Cherry Class back to our school at that point.

This is all of the information I currently have available to me, I will update you all every week in the Friday newsletters. Sadly, at the moment we do not have a timescale for the completion of the works.

Provision for Cherry Class

Cherry Class have their own classroom at Lowe's Wong Infant School, and are being taught by Mrs Hammond, Mrs Wilson, and Mrs Sissons. Mrs Hammond, Mrs Sissons and Mrs Wilson have taken as much of Cherry Class's own resources possible to Lowe's Wong to help the children feel settled there. Miss Bateman is also still delivering their P.E. lesson on a Thursday and the KS1 Sports Club after school.

The school bus is able to pick up and drop off between Halam School and Lowe's Wong Infants for those children who are attending Breakfast or Tea Club as well as those children who usually catch the bus to school. We have also arranged for the Cherry Class children who go to Spanish Club to be collected by the bus and brought back here to Halam.

Parents and Carers who are driving their children to Lowe's Wong Infants may park in the Co-op car park (there is two hours free parking there) and then walk up the Ropewalk and cross at the zebra crossing on Halam Road.

The piano teacher works at Lowe's Wong Junior School as well on a Friday morning, and so Mr Follen (the Headteacher there) has very kindly agreed to allow her to teach the Cherry Class piano lessons in their music room, this means piano can go ahead as normal.

The Y1 & Y2 Cherry Class children will also bring home a letter today, inviting them to join the Infant Choir at Lowe's Wong on a Tuesday after school. This club is run by me, from 3.30pm to 4.30pm in the school hall.

At lunchtime the Cherry Class all sit together, Mrs Hammond and Mrs Sissons are supervising the children as well as the MDSA Team from Lowe's Wong. Initially the Little Cherries stayed in the courtyard at playtimes as we were concerned that even though the Junior children have their playground our Little Cherries may have felt overwhelmed by playing with so many other infants (there are have 181 children on roll at Lowe's Wong Infant School!) Actually the children have all coped very well, so will be going out to play with everyone else.

We are going to try to have an "open evening" in the next few weeks so that you can come and have a look around Lowe's Wong Infant School and see the classroom and courtyard where the children are working and playing.

We are working as hard as we can to get Cherry Class back to Halam as soon as possible, but in the meantime what has been really lovely week is that so many of Cherry Class have been pleased to be able to see some of their Lowe's Wong friends from ballet class, swimming and Southwell City Football Club – it is always said that there is some good in every situation!

I do understand that this is a difficult time for you all, the children seem very happy and settled when in school, but may well share worries or concerns with you when they get home. Please, please feel free to e-mail me on head@halamprimary.org.uk or head@lwi.org.uk at any time with any questions you have. I may also be contacted by telephone at either school the numbers are 01636 813062 for Halam School and 01636 812207 for Lowe's Wong Infants. My usual pattern of work is that I am at Halam School on Tuesday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons, and at other times at at Lowe's Wong Infants. Of course this is sometimes subject to change dependent upon meetings etc.

Thank you for your continued support,

Aly Speed

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Executive Headteacher
