



Issue 03 –15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers.

The first half term at Yarrow Heights has flown by. The anticipation and excitement of a new school, new pupils and new staff term, already seems a distant memory. The children have settled really well and are beginning to build positive relationships with their peers and staff alike.

Thank you all for ensuring that the children are sent into school in full uniform. This is very much appreciated, and they look amazing! Should you require any further items of uniform, over and above that which has been provided, please email [Doug.Grieb@yarrowheights.com](mailto:Doug.Grieb@yarrowheights.com) By ordering directly with the school we will be able to pass on to you the school discount as opposed to paying 'high street prices.'

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

➤ **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021 inclusive Half Term School will be closed**

Immediately after the ½ term we have two INSET Days. **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021.** School Reopens Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

➤ **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 COVID Vaccinations**

All pupils from the age of 12 (have to have turned 12 since 1<sup>st</sup> Sept) – 15 years old are eligible to receive a COVID vaccination. Parents of those pupils to whom this applies will receive an invitation for their child to attend as well as confirmation of their consent. The vaccination programme will be delivered at school on this day and supported by school staff.

➤ **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 Parent/Carer Drop-in 1115 – 1215**

On the first Friday of each month, we hold a drop-in for existing parents to meet with the members of the senior team. Just so we can gauge numbers please can you drop an email to [Lucy.Macmillan@yarrowheights.com](mailto:Lucy.Macmillan@yarrowheights.com); a few days before the event. If you intend to drop in.

➤ **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 1630 – 1900 Parents' and Carers' Evening**

Nearer the time you will be sent an email with more information, enabling you to make appointments with the Tutor and Subject Teacher. These times will then be confirmed.

➤ **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Yarrow Heights School – Afternoon Christmas Carol Concert 1400 - 1500**

Further information and an invitation to attend this Christmas event will be emailed early in November. Following feedback from our parent Drop-In, if any extended family members or siblings wish to visit the school, then we would welcome them after the Concert.

➤ **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Last day of Autumn Term** The School will close at 1230. Children will be provided with lunch prior to their departure.

The school will notify the Local Authority of the above dates that involve changes to the taxi pick up time. As an extra precaution, it may be helpful for parents/carers to advise their individual taxi driver.

**Yarrow Heights school, Cobden Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton, Hampshire,  
SO18 1FS**

**Tel: 02382 124590 Email: [reception@yarrowheights.com](mailto:reception@yarrowheights.com)**





## PARENT PORTAL

Through iSAMS, our management information platform we are currently creating a Parent Portal. Each parent will receive a log in to the portal which will hold your child's timetable, our Newsletters, the School Calendar, and other useful information. The portal will also allow parents to submit and amend contact details and information relating to their child, for example dietary requirements. The Portal will go "live" after the ½ term and can be accessed on your laptop or phone. Further information will be provided.

## THERAPY AT YARROW HEIGHTS



We are delighted to welcome to our team Dr Emma Bennett, Clinical Psychologist and Head of Therapy. At the moment Emma is working with us for just one day a week until she joins us fully on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

## WELCOME TO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

To support the gradual growth of the school, we have recruited four additional Learning Support Assistants who will join us on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November, photos to follow.



Also joining us on the 1<sup>st</sup> is a new teacher, Lisa Hotchkiss. Lisa is an experienced SEN teacher with a number of years' experience. Lisa will be a class Tutor for incoming children as well as some of existing children.

## VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSETS

Virtual reality is a fascinating way to 'travel' using nothing more than the power of technology. We are fortunate enough to have VR headsets at Yarrow Heights that all of the children have been able to access and enjoy. With a headset and motion tracking, VR lets you look around a virtual space as if you're actually there or play a game as though you're in it. VR's have been gaining traction in recent years and these headsets have become a very popular device, especially this time of the year! We understand that some very lucky children are hoping for this special gift at Christmas.

If you have been persuaded to buy a headset, our IT Teacher [Chris.carter@yarrowheights.com](mailto:Chris.carter@yarrowheights.com) is available via email to give any technical advice you may need.

We wish you all a safe and relaxing ½ term starting Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October, and look forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, rested, and ready for a busy term as we lead up to Christmas.

Karen Gaster  
Headteacher

