



Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of our first full term at Yarrow Heights School, we are all extremely proud of how our pupils have settled into the routines of a new school. They have demonstrated the 5 values of Yarrow Heights School – **Resilience, Communication, Kindness, Responsibility, and Initiative** in abundance. Extraordinary achievements when their previous educational journeys are considered. Thank you all for your support in helping to make this transition to YHS so smooth. We could not have done this without your support.

Staffing Changes

We are sad to say goodbye to Andrew Simmons. Andrew joined YHS on a short-term contract to support the initial development and embedding of our safeguarding policy and practice. In the new year, Andrew will be focusing on some consultancy opportunities outside of Yarrow Heights.

New Starters for January

Kieran will be joining us as a **Pastoral and Engagement Lead** – he has over 15 years' experience in Pastoral support in SEN settings. Kieran will be supporting the engagement of pupils offering 1:1 pastoral support and guidance.

Ria is an experienced **SEN teacher** who will be joining our teaching team as a year 6/7 Tutor. Ria will be creating a new class group in January. Sarah A, will move to support Ria and the new pupils

Jemma will be joining us as our **Enrichment Lead**, Jemma has vast experience working within the SEN field and creating opportunities to enhance and augment our curriculum and learning.

Chrissie, Julie, Hannah, and Emily - will be joining us as **LSAs** All are highly skilled practitioners with relevant experience supporting children in an educational setting

We look forward to welcoming all our new staff to our training day on Tuesday 4th January.

Covid

At the time of writing, we have not been advised of any changes in procedure for January. We will be closely monitoring the advice given by central government over the holidays and will notify you of any updates. Under current guidance all schools with pupils in year 7 and above have been asked to complete onsite Lateral Flow Testing before pupils are permitted to return to the classroom. However, as a special school our pupils are permitted to test at home, before coming into school. This avoids placing additional pressure and anxiety on pupils returning to school. Please can you ensure that your child completes two 2 lateral flow tests before returning in January. The recommended days for these tests are 31st December 2021 and 3rd January 2022. If either of these tests return a positive, then they must isolate and obtain a PCR test.

As previous experience has shown, any changes will happen rapidly with very little notice. We have a contingency plan in place for pupils to access their education remotely. Such measures may be imposed in case of pupils needing to self-isolate, low staff numbers due to self-isolating or Government advice to close schools Our remote





education will be via Microsoft Teams and One Note. All pupils have been set up on this platform and have been shown in school how to access these platforms. Please can you advise Lou Watts if you do not have access to a PC/Internet at home. Lou.watts@yarrowheights.com.

Second dose Covid vaccinations can now be offered to 12–15 year olds and therefore NHS Solent have offered us an opportunity for eligible young people to have their second dose vaccination at YHS on **Tuesday 1st February 2022**. **Cat Catton** cat.catton@yarrowheights.com will be in touch in the new year to those to whom this applies.

Parent Drop-In

Just a reminder that our next monthly parent drop-in session will be on the 7th January at 11.15. please book your place with Dr Emma Bennett – emma.bennett@yarrowheights.com

At the moment our plans are for this event to be in person. We will socially distance and ask that you take a Lateral Flow Test on the morning of the session. We will let you know if these arrangements change.

3 Month Assessment Reviews

As we approach the end of our first ½ term, we are now in the process of sending out invitations to attend these assessment reviews. The purpose of this review is to formally confirm the child's full-time placement at Yarrow Heights School following the 12-week educational and therapeutic period of assessment. At this meeting we will be in a position to confirm how we intend to meet their needs.

The Annual Review which then follows, usually 12 months from the date of issue of the EHCP, will then evaluate the strategies and progress made by that child, and consider the suitability of the EHCP objectives and what further interventions may be required in the following year.

Term dates

Attached to this newsletter are our September 2022 - to July 2023 term dates

January School Lunch Menu

We have taken on board the comments from the pupils, and from January we will be providing a 3-week rolling lunch menu, which is attached for your reference. We endeavour to maintain a healthy, balanced menu whilst offering the variety of food choices the children have told us they enjoy.

All our produce is fresh and prepared on the site for that day. From time to time there may be a supply issue which means that we are forced to change the menu. If this happens, we will do our best to communicate these changes to the children at the earliest opportunity.

Enrichment

Due to the success of our daily enrichment programme, we are pleased to share with you the increased variety of enrichment activities nominated by the children. These will be available for the first 6 weeks of the Spring Term, after which, a further range of activities will be available. All the pupils have made a first and second choice and our timetable is written and ready to go!

Yarrow Heights School, Cobden Avenue, Bitterne, Southampton, Hampshire,
SO18 1FS

Tel: 02382 124590 Email: reception@yarrowheights.com





Choices of enrichment for Spring 1 are:

- Baking
- Relaxation Techniques
- Board Games (Chess/Scrabble etc)
- Reading/Book Club
- Maths Brainiac and Homework Club
- Textiles and Sewing
- Art Skills
- Get Fit/Football and Basketball focused skills
- Music (Guitar/Keyboard and Vocals)
- Hair, Beauty and Make up
- Modern Languages (Spanish, German or French)
- Personal Drop in (drop-in sessions around worries, anxiety, personal/relationship concerns)

Christmas Carols Performance

It was with much disappointment that we felt obliged to cancel the concert due to COVID restrictions and the emerging Omicron variant. However, after much practice we were able to hold an 'in-house' performance which was recorded. This recording will be sent in a separate email. We hope that you enjoy!

School starts back Wednesday 5th January; we look forward to seeing all of the children back, well rested, and ready for another exciting term.

Happy Christmas from all the staff at Yarrow Heights.

Karen Gaster

Karen Gaster
Head Teacher

