



The William Henry Smith School

7TH July 2021

Dear families, I hope you are well.

Whilst the country has been given the green light from the 19th July to open up, and with some measures such as the option to wear face coverings etc. becoming voluntary, the school is choosing to remain cautious (along with other schools in Calderdale), and will be continuing with precautionary & control measures through to the summer holidays. I know families will be supportive of the school's decision in this respect, and whilst there's no denying that we are keen for our whole school community to re-connect, we are hopeful that when we return, there will be endless opportunities.

With continuing restrictions, and temporary changes necessary, we are continually revising plans to enable the school to operate as closely to practice pre-Covid as we are safely able, and share with families' information on Annual Reviews and Prize Giving. Holidays for 20/21 and 21/22 are enclosed.

Annual Reviews of EHCP progress will remain virtual for the autumn term through to Christmas. Many families have found this useful, and so to avoid any issues with travel, we will continue in this manner until the new year.

Prize Giving will again be very different. We are planning to hold the ceremony in bubbles with the students and staff attached to the group, and representatives from the leadership team. We have invited a famous local poet (virtually of course) to introduce the learning groups; we will be recording each ceremony and will be sharing these with families over the summer holiday. We are planning a full week in school for all students with a focus on preparing them for the summer holiday. Therefore, all students will finish later on in the week on Friday 23rd July 2021 in the afternoon rather than Thursday 22nd July. Every student will also be bringing home a summer activity pack.

And to more good news...

60th Anniversary. We will be celebrating our 60th anniversary on Thursday 7th October and all families are invited. We are looking forward to reconnecting face to face with families joining us in some fun activities, and our usual parade of food from around the world! At the close of the day's events, families will be invited to take their child home with them, and for those families unable to make the celebration, the school will arrange normal transport after the event on Thursday 7TH October 2021. All students will return on Monday 11th October.

Annual Conference. We are delighted that we will be able to hold our annual professionals' conference on Friday 15th October and students will therefore go home for the holidays on Thursday 14th October 2021 in the afternoon. I am sure families will agree the importance of learning & development aligned to further enhance and share great practice.

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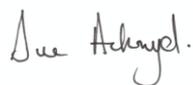


The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Families will, no doubt, have heard of the additional bank holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Her Majesty will be the first British monarch to reach this milestone. The school will fall in line with Calderdale schools and be closed on Friday 27th May 2022. Students will therefore finish for the Spring Bank Holiday (incorporating the additional holiday) on Thursday 26th May 2022 and return to school on Tuesday 7th June 2022.

Outreach. We are delighted that we will be reaching out to students in the summer holidays. Plans are underway, and school staff will be in touch to agree and confirm arrangements. We know that our boys, and families, value connecting during the holidays, and therefore we have pulled out all the stops to provide as much as we are physically able.

I thank you sincerely for your support during the last academic year, and when it comes wish you and your family a warm and sunny summer.

Best wishes



Sue Ackroyd
Principal

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