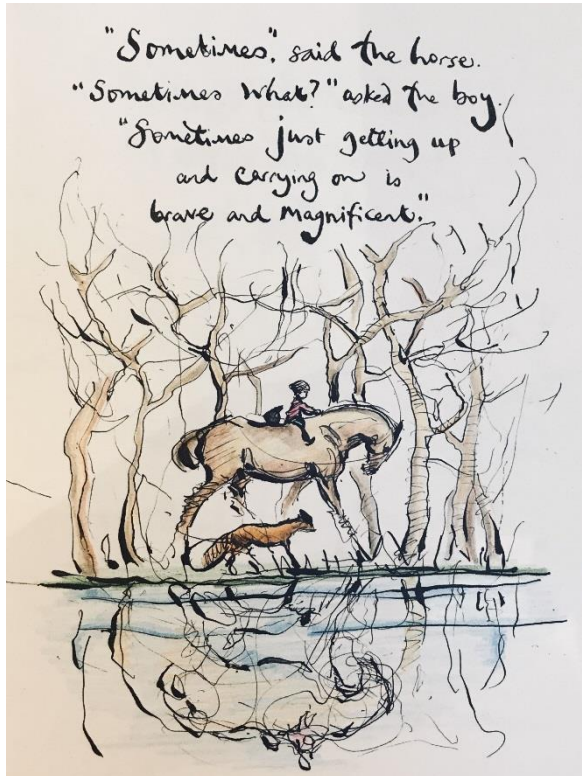


1st half of the Spring Term 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am in complete awe of you all. You are doing the most amazing job supporting your children at home during these challenging days. I am sure that there have been days when it was really difficult but your love for your children, and because you always want the very best for them, has meant you have done your best to ensure they are safe, happy and engaged in remote learning. That is no mean feat. Well done.

The many highlights of this term have been during the time I have spent with the pupils either onsite or in the ZOOMs. Seeing the pupils at home in their uniform, alert, engaged and ready to learn melted my heart. I have to admit they were also some of the most surreal moments of this term and I am sure I am not alone in thinking that. We would never have predicted this time last year what our situation

would be. How your children, you and the staff have adapted to this situation is truly admirable. I can't wait to get back to having all of the children back at school, to welcome you onsite and be able to see and hug loved ones. Until it is safe, we must continue to support each other as best we can, keeping hold of the belief that this will pass and reflecting on how we will be better for having gone through such significant changes in our lives.

I feel we have been sending you constant emails this half term but hope that they have been helpful to you. As we come to the end of this half term, I wanted to take a moment to share some other things with you about our wonderful school so you all are aware.



Spring Term Parent Teacher Meetings

Traditionally we would have been inviting you into school to talk about your child, how settled they are at school, what is going well and what we could do together to ensure they continue to flourish. What is different now is that you have been with your children during 'school' hours and overseeing school work more than ever before. Teachers see your children every day on ZOOM and have been giving feedback on the work completed that you have uploaded on Seesaw. You have been supporting your child with their work and are aware of what progress your child is making. Teachers are also in contact with you if you have asked for support or to share any concerns they have.

We are trying to consider what the best option is to ensure we continue to work effectively with you and that there is valuable time to talk with you. Assuming pupils will return on 8th March, we would like to offer you a parent teacher meeting at the start of the summer term as this will give us time to see how your children are doing back at school. In the meantime, if you would like to speak with your child's class teacher, please don't hesitate to ask. We are here to help and would love to spend time talking with you.



Bilingual Stream Mid-Year Report

Pupils in the bilingual stream will receive their half yearly written report at the end of this week. For families who are new to BWA, it may be helpful to know that there are differences in the number of parent teacher meetings and written reports in the English stream and Bilingual stream, as summarised below. This is to satisfy the requirements of the French and English education systems.

English Stream – three parent teacher meetings (one a term) plus a written record of this meeting and an end of year report.

Bilingual Stream – two parent teacher meetings and two reports (February and end of year)



Despite the restriction of not being able to go on a school trip, as well as learning from home, our amazing team have continued to source opportunities that enhance the learning experiences of our pupils.

Year group	Virtual Experience
2	As part of their learning about significant individuals, year two met Florence Nightingale at the Florence Nightingale Museum. It was a fabulous session speaking to her and hearing about her work.
3	To enhance their science topic of rocks, year 3 were fortunate to have a visit from a real life Geologist to learn all about the work they do. It was very interesting and helped us consider this as a job in the future. Yr 3 also had an audience with the poet Rachel Rooney. They are reading her poetry book in English so to meet her virtually was great. Rachel read some of her poems to year 3 and explored them in some detail. She also shared some helpful hints and tips to be a poet.
4	Year 4 are reading Shackleton's Journey and studying Polar environments. They were very fortunate to have had an audience with Sophie Montagne, who was one of the six all-female crew to walk across Antarctica. What an achievement! They learnt so much about resilience and dedication.
6	In Wandsworth, we are very lucky to be able to participate in the Junior Citizen Scheme event each year. This scheme gives pupils the skills to deal with a wide range of emergency situations and help them contribute to their community through good citizenship. Last year, pupils in year 5 should have attended this event off site but this wasn't possible so they were offered it virtually this term. It was a fantastic opportunity.

Support for Families

I wanted to share a few links that you may find helpful.

CAMHS Managing your child's emotions during lockdown	<p>I have been fortunate to have been given this link to a great video to share with you, produced by CAMHS.</p> <p>The video is aimed for parents and carers of children and offers advice around how best to support them (and you) with heightened emotions during lockdown and the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>It may be helpful for you to watch or share with others you think would benefit from watching it.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtBlf4D2Aqs</p>
Young Minds When emotions explode	<p>Young Minds have created a useful poster highlighting ways to give support to children when they have angry feelings or outbursts and may help families start a conversation and talk about each other's feelings.</p> <p>https://youngminds.org.uk/media/4291/when-emotions-explode-poster.pdf</p>
Beacon House Screen Savers: Looking after your eyes, body and mind when using screens	<p>We are spending more time online than ever before, possibly sitting and working with poor posture as we use makeshift desks and chairs. There is a tendency to take fewer breaks and less exercise and this is affecting our physical well-being.</p> <p>Beacon House the specialist, therapeutic service for young people, families and adults has produced a series of six posters outlining ways to keep safe and alert when working at home, whether children or adults.</p> <p>Download the posters here: https://beaconhouse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Screen-Savers-1.pdf</p>



Term Dates for 2021-2022

We don't know what will happen in our world by next year but hopefully we will be able to travel and see family and friends. As some of you may be trying to sort holidays and childcare for then, I would like to share the term dates for the English stream with you.

Please note that the bilingual term dates are not the same as the English stream. These differ as the terms and conditions of employment of the French teachers differ to our teachers. These haven't been confirmed yet but as soon as they are we will share them. The half term holidays are the same however the year may start on either Friday 3rd September or Monday 6th September. The end of the academic year may be 19th July.

"It's not our job to toughen our children up to face a cruel and heartless world. It's our job to raise children who will make the world a little less cruel and heartless."

L.R.Knost

I thought this quote was lovely to end on as I wish you all a very peaceful and happy half term. There will be no learning tasks set as we hope this means you all get a chance to have some well deserved and much needed rest to recharge your batteries and perhaps have time to complete the PTA Family Fun Run.

Miss Henry

English Stream Term Dates 2021 – 2022

	First day for Children	Bank Holidays	Half Term Holidays	Last day for Children
Autumn 2021	Monday 6 th September 2021		Monday 25 th Oct 2021 – Friday 29 th Oct 2021	Friday 17 th Dec 2021 @ 1.45pm
Spring 2022	Wednesday 5 th January 2022		Monday 14 th Feb 2022 – Friday 18 th Feb 2022	Friday 1 st April 2022 @ 1.45pm
Summer 2022	Wednesday 20 th April 2022	Mon 2 nd May 2022	Monday 30 th May 2022 – Friday 6 th June 2022	Friday 22 nd July 2022 @ 1.45pm