



THE SOHO SCOOP

News and Views from Soho Parish

10/7/20

Headline

Welcome to our last Scoop of the year. And what a year it's been, with just over a third of some children's learning taking place remotely. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank parents for all they have done, supporting the school and your child over the closure. I must also thank teachers for their dedication and hard work, learning new skills and finding different ways to communicate with families and children.

In addition, I am indebted to all the staff who have led our provision for key worker families and vulnerable children, since March. These individuals travelled to school, most of them from some distance, at a time when the majority of people were remaining safely at home. They are all heroes to me, as are the children who have remained in school at this unusual time so that their parents could attend life-saving jobs.

And we must remember all the children who have stayed at home, many of them without access to outdoor space, working hard and experiencing a period of time none of us could have imagined. Seeing them returning to school in larger numbers over the past few weeks, I am struck by how much they have grown, both in stature and in maturity during this time. How accepting they are of their new reality, when adults are still reeling and struggling against it. It reminds me, though, seeing them playing and learning happily and renewing friendships, how important school is.

I am delighted that the government has decided all children must return in September, weighing up the children's mental and physical well-being and their learning against the risks posed by the virus. This, of course, brings with it huge challenges for schools. But we are ready for these, if it means we can bring our community back together in person, as safely as possible.

Louise

Google Classrooms

Thank you to those parents who have signed their child up to their Google classroom. We are preparing these ready for September. Your child should say hi once registered, but should continue to use See Saw and Tapestry for other communications until the end of term.

Your child's teacher will be in touch to schedule a 'Google Meet' before the end of term. This is an opportunity for children to meet each other in a safe online forum, managed by the teacher and attended by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Attendance is optional, but we would like to see as many children there as possible. This will be a good trial in case online lessons are required in future, due to potential local or national closure.

Attached to this Scoop is our Remote Learning policy and our Acceptable Use for Online Lessons policy. Parents must read the latter before their child attends any online lesson. If the 'Google Meet' takes place when some pupils are in school, it is assumed that children in school can attend as they will be supervised by a teacher and only other members of their class can attend from home. If you have any concerns about this, please speak with your child's class teacher.

Government Guidance for September

We are working through the very detailed and lengthy guidance provided last week to schools by the Department for Education. The headlines are as follows

- Children may be taught in bubbles of any size, although for primary schools a class size bubble would seem appropriate.
- Hygiene, cleaning and safety measures must be robust, as now.
- Staff may move between bubbles, maintaining a 1m distance.
- The curriculum should be broad and balanced.
- Desks should face the front with pupils sitting side by side not facing each other.
- Anyone with symptoms (pupils and staff) must self-isolate and take a test. Track and trace will be used to identify whether others need to do the same.

The school will use the guidance to review our current risk assessments and create a plan for September. This will be shared with all parents in advance of the new term. We may decide to employ more stringent procedures in order to ensure the safest approach, but you can rest assured that we are planning for a full return for Years 1-6 from September 7th, and for new Reception pupils from September 16th, as usual.

Any parent who is concerned about the return to school in September should contact the office to arrange to speak to a member of staff who can offer support and guidance.

Summer Provision

Despite Boris Johnson's claim of a summer 'catch up' programme, schools have received no information as to what this means. Neither have we received any additional funding to date. We have applied to the Local Authority for funding to run a two-week childcare provision for key worker children and vulnerable pupils and will keep parents informed as to whether this can proceed. We will also inform you if there are additional private places available. If we do receive the funding, this will run from 22nd-24th July and 27th – 31st July.



The Recovery Curriculum



At present senior leaders and teachers are working hard to develop a tailored curriculum to support children's return to school. The key priorities are:

1. To identify pupils' current attainment levels, especially in Reading, Writing and Mathematics so that progress can be carefully tracked and gaps in learning addressed.
2. To support pupil well-being, ensuring that mental and physical health is well-supported by the curriculum and planned activities.

We will work closely with parents on this and keep you informed as to your child's progress

Sad Goodbyes

Alejandro

It is with great sadness that I write to say a fond farewell to Alejandro Pelaez-Molina, who has driven our musical achievements to ever greater heights over the last decade. Thanks to Alejandro, we have two rock bands and a wonderful regular music concert each term. We also have whole class ukulele and violin lessons, giving every child the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. Alejandro breathed life into music at Soho Parish and we will do our utmost to maintain the high standards he has set.

Alejandro and his wife Zuzana took the decision earlier this year to relocate with their daughter Adela to Alejandro's home country of Columbia so that they could have the support of their extended family. After the unexpected setback of the pandemic and lockdown, in which the school benefited from Alejandro continuing his music lessons and preparing for September, they have finally been able to relocate as planned in April.

Alejandro you will be hugely missed. We will try to arrange for those pupils in school to say goodbye to him via Google Meet before the end of term.

Ana

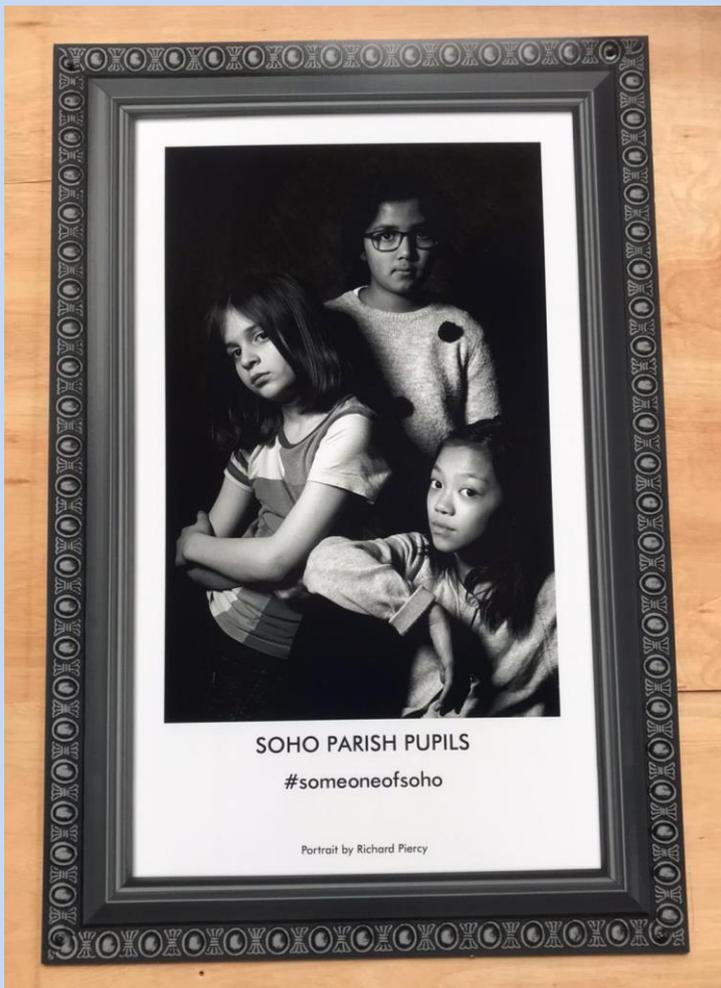
We are also saying goodbye to Ana Valencia-Calvellido, who has worked as teaching assistant in reception for the last two years. Ana is a trained teacher and will be returning to Spain to take up a teaching post. We have been very fortunate to benefit from Ana's skill and care and she will be sadly missed by all the pupils she has worked with.



Ana has been in this week to say goodbye to reception and year 1 pupils in person (at a safe distance). I'd like to thank her for all she has done for the school and wish her every success in her future career.

Someone of Soho Exhibition

A few of our children and members of the Soho community (including our very own James!) were selected to have their portraits taken by photographer, Richard Piercy. These portraits have now been included in his wonderful photographic portrait exhibition, 'Someone of Soho'. Next time you are walking around Soho keep your eyes peeled and see if you can spot them.



St. Anne's Church, Soho

St. Anne's Church – Cleaner needed

St Anne's Church are looking for a cleaner for their premises on Dean Street - working two hours a day Mon-Fri and paid the London Living Wage. Preferably mornings but with some flexibility. If you are interested please email Jake - info@stannes-soho.org.uk.

Pre recorded workshops for parents

As part of the schools well-being offer, we partner with Mind Westminster. They have recently developed resources for parents /carers around children's transition back to school. There are a total of six pre-recorded parents' workshops uploaded on Dropbox which are valid for one week. It is possible to view the files after this date simply by downloading them to your computer within the link's time-frame.



1. Mental health awareness - <https://www.dropbox.com/t/hbisHY3hiuvV370F>
2. Self-care and relaxation techniques – <https://www.dropbox.com/t/Ji6r6hF4IBqOOJpa>
3. Understanding anxiety - <https://www.dropbox.com/t/Ji6r6hF4IBqOOJpa>
4. Transition and anxiety – <https://www.dropbox.com/t/zVbFy0TQpZCxoQMk>
5. Understanding low mood – <https://www.dropbox.com/t/VEXjRFzZtTJKgICd>
6. Understanding child's behaviour – <https://www.dropbox.com/t/deWTnXgT4lgaokZ3>

School Crowdfunder

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated and shared our crowdfunder, so far we have raised just over £17,000 with over 200 supporters. To survive and maintain our excellent pastoral and academic provision, we need to fill the gap in our funding caused by the pandemic. Every little helps so please donate if you can and share this link on social media to spread the word.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/save-soho-parish>

Save the only school in Soho

by Soho Parish CE Primary School in London, England, United Kingdom



To fill the gap in our funding caused by the coronavirus pandemic, so that we can keep providing our children with a high quality education.

£17,195 raised of £85,000 target
201 supporters

20% 27 days left

Support Us

Flexible funding – this project will receive all pledges made by 7th August 2020 at 2:00pm

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Schools

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Meet the Soho Staff: Jacky Shroer

Hello, I am Jacky, who is incredibly fortunate to have been given the opportunity to be a part of Soho Parish School's community, as a teacher and RE Lead. I am blessed to have an amazing 18 year-old daughter, who has just completed her first year at University. I was born in Kenya; my father was sent there in 1950's by the British Government and met my mum at a tea dance! The rest is history as I was raised, with my 4 sisters and 2 brothers, on an idyllic farm (my mum is a farmer extraordinaire), where I rode horses, motorbikes, learnt how to drive a tractor, ate fresh food, loved playing tennis, hockey, netball and piano and spent many hours at the ballet conservatoire.

From a young age, my idols were Margot Fonteyn and Anna Pavlova and my lifetime's ambition was to be a ballerina. I was often referred to as a 'bookworm', which was easily accomplished as my father was a publisher. Education was a very important part of my upbringing and we all attended British schools, following the Oxford and Cambridge curriculums. At 15, I arrived in the UK to go to a boarding school, near where my granny lived. University beckoned, which I loved and obtained a degree in English Language & Literature. Throughout my University years, I also immersed myself in the music and creative arts scene in London. A fantastic career in the music industry beckoned, one which lasted for over 20 years, working both in A&R and Management – across pop, urban, dance, singer-songwriter and classical music. This allowed me to meet my husband, travel globally, experience a wide and diverse range of cultures and develop a taste for sushi and healthy cuisine! During the latter part of this time, I was a volunteer reader at my daughter's schools and held a range of Governor roles.

This re-awakened my interest in education, leading me to train as a teacher, which is deeply rewarding. I love that I can now compassionately help children with their fundamental wellbeing, help secure positive development, find their specific talents, facilitate them to maximise these skills to their best ability, embrace the rich breadth of their backgrounds, celebrate successes and show tolerance and respect for the rights of others. Now you know a 'small' part of who I am. 😊

Meet the Soho Staff: Natasha Cranston

Hi everyone! After completing my teacher training at the University of Cambridge, I began my teaching career in South London and then joined the Soho Parish community in 2017. Our school really lives up to its motto 'Small School, Big Heart', as working here feels like being part of a big family. It is an exciting place to teach with curious children, supportive parents and inspiring colleagues. I love working here and feel proud of the enriched experience of learning that we facilitate for our children.



As Maths Coordinator, it is my mission to make maths accessible for all! I am passionate about nurturing positive attitudes and developing confidence in maths, so that our children can build a deep and secure understanding of mathematical concepts. Implementing the teaching for mastery approach in our school has been rewarding, as we have seen our community grow in enthusiasm, confidence and understanding, which includes our parents and governors too! Whoop - Go team! Since being at Soho Parish, I became a middle leader and have taught in key stage 1 and key stage 2. I am excited to be teaching in Reception next year and look forward to lots more learning through play, songs and drama that enable us to love our learning. I love dressing up and often go all out on my costumes, which are usually crafted by my fiancé Nick.

When I am not spending time with my family and friends, visiting art exhibitions or travelling, you can usually find me practising my jumps, spins and fancy footwork for ice-skating. I have been having lessons for almost a year now and absolutely love it! I have had a few bumps and bruises along the way but I enjoy the challenge and have developed my resilience and courage as a result. Another passion of mine is ancient Greek literature and mythology, which is also why it is one of my favourite topics to teach! I love reading Ancient Greek plays and have seen a few performed in The Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus, which was a dream come true!