



THE SOHO SCOOP

News and Views from Soho Parish



Headline

A very warm welcome back to our first term of 2020-21 at Soho Parish. Staff and pupils have returned to the classroom like ducks to water and the atmosphere is happy and purposeful.

We are getting underway quickly with our assessments. I am working with Years 1 and 2, Mayowa with Years 3 and 4 and Hannah with Years 5 and 6 so that we can assist the teachers and teaching assistants in assessing the children and planning a tailored curriculum for each class. I'm delighted that the first readers I have heard in Year 2 have made super progress while they've been away and would like to congratulate all our parents on the phenomenal job you have all done while your child was learning from home.

The 'school street' initiative, which sees Great Windmill Street close during drop off and collection has been a welcome support to our staggered starts and ends of the school day, although as you will be aware there have been some teething problems. We are working with Westminster road safety team and the police to make quick improvements where necessary.

Today's half-day closure enables our teachers to take planning, preparation and assessment time. Parents should be aware that the teachers have a big task ahead of them this term, not only assessing children and providing a curriculum that enables all children to 'catch up' as necessary, but also preparing work for any children self-isolating for the required 14 days if they or someone in their household tests positive for Covid.

We understand that some parents may be feeling anxious about their child's progress during the time they were learning at home. Our first parent meetings (held virtually) will take place after half term, giving us time to fully assess the children and give you a detailed verbal report on their progress and current attainment. In the meantime, teachers will be calling parents this term to find out from you how your child progressed at home, any concerns you may have and to provide an initial impression of your child's learning and well-being at school.

Please see the attached letters regarding home learning (all years) and secondary transfer (Y5 and 6).

Louise

Learning from Y4



Year 4 have started this term's PE and Fitness with gusto at St. Anne's Gardens, participating in a range of warm-up exercises before learning new throwing and catching ball skills. A great time was had by all in the warm weather.



Parent workshop: Q&A

We will be running a parent Q&A session with Alex Haswell, Educational Psychologist on **Monday 14th September at 11:30am** (Zoom link below). This is an opportunity for you to ask any questions or seek advice regarding your child. Alex has worked with our school for over 10 years and supports us to improve all children's learning experiences. He has delivered parent and teacher sessions on emotional regulation, well being, attachment, sleep, play and child development all of which have been very useful. We hope to see you there!



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83083084679?pwd=bG5ZNVVjQ0lxSVhkdTJYUHZNa1Badz09>

Meeting ID: 830 8308 4679
Passcode: 636770

Therapy Dog



Meet Crawford! He belongs to Robyn and will start visiting school on Monday. This is for him to get used to his surroundings before he begins his training as a therapy dog for our school. Crawford will be working with Paul for some time, so children will not be in direct contact with him during this early period, although they can say 'hi' from a distance. Crawford is a Cavapoo, which means his coat won't activate any allergies. If you have any questions, please email Robyn.

Crowdfunder

We are delighted to announce that the crowdfunder raised £21,220. Coupled with additional donations, our campaign raised **£50,220**. We are overwhelmed by the support of parents, past pupils, friends and our local community, who continue to work hard on our behalf to help us fill our covid funding gap. This money funds essential services including speech therapy, educational psychology, family therapy and our wonderful teaching assistants, as well as subsidising our school meals and breakfast club.

As we are not currently able to let the building, the gap does continue to widen, so please continue to raise awareness of the school and our funding needs. While we can't show potential benefactors around the school in person, we are always happy to meet anyone virtually who is interested in supporting us and education in Soho.

Don't forget you can help us via easyfundraising (details overleaf) and Amazon Smile.





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