Welcome back to a new term at La Fontaine! It does feel very strange writing those words under the circumstances and I really hope that this newsletter finds all our families safe and well.

On Monday, we welcomed Year 6 back to school and, although some children were initially a little nervous, they have settled in quickly and are glad to be back and learning in school with their friends. A huge thank you to Mme Isbecque who gave them all a warm welcome and got the children into a routine very quickly. I will be writing to all parents on Monday 8th June with details of the next stage of our partial re-opening.

As always, I have been extremely grateful for the positivity and dedication of the La Fontaine staff. We have an amazing team here and the Covid-19 school closures have really tested their resilience and creativity. Every member of staff has continued to work hard, whether in school or from home, and we have some very exciting curriculum developments ready for September (when we will hopefully be back to something resembling normal!)

I know parents and carers have many questions about the next academic year and what that might look like. At this stage I honestly can’t be sure, although we are making tentative plans that cover a range of scenarios. The Covid-19 educational landscape is ever-changing and much will depend on what happens with the pandemic as the weeks and months progress. As always, we will follow government guidance and continue to communicate as best we can.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding during this challenging time. We are doing our best, as a school community, to plan for every eventuality and I am enormously grateful for everyone’s understanding when plans change or are altered at short notice. We are responding to a crisis that is unprecedented in our lifetimes and, as always, the safety of our school community is at the forefront of everything we do. Please look after yourselves and, as always, please contact us if we can support you in any way.

Mlle Mitchell

Stars de la semaine: Stars of the week

Our pupils have been working incredibly hard both at school and at home and we are so proud! Teachers are celebrating home learning in their weekly videos; in school, the following children have consistently demonstrated our La Fontaine values and so are our stars of the week:

Year 6: Feyi & Paul  KW 1: Isabelle & Erin  KW 2: Amelia & Siri  KW 3: Paige
Notre terrain de jeux: Our playground

As you may have seen on Twitter, our wonderful playground is now finished and there is not a digger in sight! It’s not a moment too soon and our key worker children and Year 6 have been busy trying it out and making the most of the beautiful weather.

We cannot wait to see this space full and bustling, when we’re able to welcome back the rest of our children!

Twitter

Our new Twitter handle is @LfaBromley. Please follow us for all the latest updates!
Retour à l’école: Return to school

It has been truly wonderful to welcome back our Year 6, who have settled back in admirably, adapting to the new conditions and working as hard as ever.

Children are in ‘bubbles’ with a maximum size of 10 and are spaced out in the classroom, keeping the same desk and chair each day. Everyone has their own tray with the resources and stationery they need for the week. Each group has a break at a different time, enabling them to spread out and safely enjoy the new playground.

We are incredibly fortunate at La Fontaine to have such responsible and self-aware pupils and their understanding of health and safety at this time is excellent. As a school, we have extensive risk assessments in place to ensure that everyone is as protected as they can be and we are constantly monitoring and reviewing our arrangements to keep in line with the latest guidance. We have made a conscious decision to keep the school environment as non-threatening as possible and to use social distancing measures as a teaching point, for example by educating children as to what a reasonable distance looks and feels like without relying on endless tape, which is not always there to guide them outside these walls.

Other classrooms around the school are also being prepared to welcome children back!
Nouvelles du monde: World news

By now, we hope you have received our letter written in response to the tragic death of George Floyd. The letter begins:

I’m sure that most, if not all, of you have been following the tragic news of the death of George Floyd, while in police custody, in Minneapolis last week. There has been a huge response to this around the world and we know that many of our children have heard about it, but we are also aware that for many primary aged children this situation may be difficult to understand. The idea that a person could die while in police custody is difficult to understand for people of any age.

We know that the children who have been with us at school this week have many questions about why this incident has sparked riots and civil unrest, and why something that has happened thousands of miles away from us, in the USA, is having an impact in this country.

If this is something that you have – or would like to – discuss with your children, we thought it might be helpful to share some resources with you to support with this.

It goes on to give some valuable advice from Harold S. Koplewicz of Child Mind Institute and some Newsround links designed especially for children: these are really useful for helping to explain the events in a way children will understand.

Racism, or any form of discrimination, is not tolerated at La Fontaine Academy; a key element of eliminating the toxicity of racism from our society is the education of children. As we continue to develop our curriculum, we are ensuring that people of all nationalities, ethnicities, genders, sexualities, abilities, etc., are represented to help build an understanding of the huge range of people that make up and benefit our world. School is only one part of the children’s access to education, so we are incredibly grateful for your support with addressing the values of equality and respect for all.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further support with this.
School day timings: Year 6

12.15pm: Year 6 enter through the playground (Y5/6 entrance)
1.45pm: 15 minute break outdoors
3.00pm: Children finish school for the day; collected from the playground

School day timings: Key worker provision

9.00am: Children enter through the office
10.30am: 15 minute break outdoors
12.30am: 1 hour lunch break
3.00pm: Children finish school for the day; collected from the office

Présence: Attendance

A reminder that La Fontaine is currently open for key worker children and Year 6 only, with further year groups to follow. You are not under any obligation to send your child to school and we will fully support you in any decision you make; there are no penalties or repercussions for children not attending school. We do ask that we are given notice—the day before at the latest—if you are planning on coming in for the first time. This is so that we can ensure that we have the optimum group sizes.

For those continuing their learning at home, the link for materials is:

https://www.lafontaineacademy.org/home-prep/