

Federation Parent Newsletter

Issue 2

Summer (1) 2021

Lauriston School



What a term

I was expecting time to go very slowly during this lockdown period, but starting a new job makes time fly fast. Here we are at the end of the summer term and there is lots to celebrate. A big well done to you all for your hard work over the past thirteen weeks. It has been a roller coaster of remote learning, in-school provision, paper pack making, risk assessments, return to school planning, curriculum adapting, gap filling and catch up. Hopefully, the Easter holidays will provide some time for you and your families to unwind and recharge your batteries for the end of the year countdown. I have really enjoyed being able to meet you and the children and staff and begin building a picture about each school. For me starting mid-way through an academic year has been super helpful as I have been able to see how the schools run when they are all set up. I am already seeing some important changes and developments which are adding to your children's experiences at school. I am really excited about the future of the Federation and together with the Heads of School, we have things to do! Here's to a magnificent summer term ahead. **Robin**



All About Daubeney

At Daubeney, the children have settled back to learning beautifully. The school has been developing its curriculum provision with some really positive impact seen on reading, maths and the wider curriculum—all the subject leaders contributing well. I look forward to spending some time in classes next term seeing what is happening. It has been great to see work around Mental Health being driven forward, a focus on Autism Awareness, a Boys Book Club, Forest School training and the thriving PTA and Outdoor and playground plans which are super exciting. A lovely feature about Daubeney is the enthusiasm and community spirit around themed days, as seen in Red Nose Day, World Book Day and History Day. I am sure Mr Logan has a special room in his house dedicated to dressing up!

All about Sebright

There is a creative spirit which runs right through Sebright; their Feel Good Fridays producing some amazing learning and display across the school. The children have all settled back to school quickly, showing enthusiasm for learning and support for each other. Ms Corpe has started her role as Head of School effortlessly, and her and the team have continued to drive school improvement forward. We have seen some excellent leadership, amazing work—the Big Draw focusing on key artists, lots of messy play, Times Table Rock Stars, amazing writing and several enthusiastic dress up days! We await some exciting developments in the EYFS outside area as well as curriculum projects, the creation of a Music Room and the introduction of a whole school playground focus.....I'm looking forward to seeing learning in classes next term.

All about Lauriston

There have been some innovative approaches to the curriculum at Lauriston; the children returned to school with confidence and energy and started their whole school 'change' project which has resulted in some wonderful displays and videos. Mr Harris and the team have started work on transforming learning environments and developing the Lauriston building. The newly branded PTA have exciting plans ahead and the grand Playground development behind the scenes work is building momentum. The playground will be a focus for Lauriston next term and into the Autumn and the curriculum leads will continue to develop new ideas and plans to motivate the children to further raise standards. I'm looking forward to going to see classes in action next term.



Things
that have
made me
smile...



What we've been working on at....

Mr Harris tells us about Lauriston

This half-term started with Burglar Bill being caught red handed with a copy of "Really Saying Something – Our Bananarama Story" and we haven't looked back since! Remote learning became a distant memory as we opened the school gates to all the pupils on March 8th and what a fun, energetic and creative half-term we have had here at Lauriston. The whole school project based around the theme of 'Change' has been a real success with pupils making their own fossils, directing animation films, dinosaur digs, creating exploding volcanoes and magical potions and so much more. Our video diaries of the 'Change Project' have enabled our parents to share in the fun too and the feedback from the pupils has been brilliant. We have also been working hard through our assessments to spot gaps in learning and to identify children who will need catch up support in the Summer Term. We've also had some lovely moments such as a group of determined Year 5 students creating their own Lauriston Newspaper and we've held the first Lauriston PTA meeting and a very successful quiz night! There are lots of exciting plans ahead for summer term and beyond and we can't wait to get started!



Mr Logan tells us about Daubeney

Dear Daubeney family,

As we depart today for the Easter break and reflect on this term as well as the previous year – you will find that many unprecedented challenges have been overcome successfully. I think we should all draw confidence from this as we prepare for the term ahead. Our subject leads have led on themed weeks that have ensured our children were not only excited to return to school to see their friends but to engage with all aspects of their learning enthusiastically – as seen again today with our History Dress-up Day. This includes the important work everyone has done around our PSHE/JIGSAW curriculum and our pupils' mental well-being. Our subject leads also led a very successful virtual SIP2 visit with Hackney Education (HE) that focused on the quality of our online provision. Ebony and Matt in their respective subject lead positions, in addition to the above, have continued to collaborate with HE's advisors to improve our reading and maths provision as part of our ongoing school improvement journey. I think this all sets us up for the aptly named geography themed half-term of being, 'Intrepid Explorers'. Well done, thank you and enjoy the holiday – you all deserve it!



Ms Corpe tells us about Sebright

What a brilliant half term we have had at Sebright. The children have really enjoyed our Feel Good Fridays and loved dressing up for Red Nose Day. The children have produced some wonderful art work over the last two weeks of term for our Big Draw. Sebright children are fantastic and have come back raring to learn and re-establish their relationships with their class mates, teachers and other adults in the school. Across the school we have been learning about new beginnings and what spring represent to us. Everyone is benefitting from more exercise with some classes completing the daily mile and others having the opportunity for daily movement in class. When our local authority improvement partner visited the school he commented on how settled the children were and was impressed with the work they were engaged in when he toured the school. We have assessed all the children and are ready to go with interventions to help plug the gaps next term. As we are about to break up for the Spring please enjoy your time together playing and exploring the local parks. Take some time to talk and read together to help develop your child's language and reading skills.



Governance... A productive series of meetings with our Governing Body, discussing the school budgets—successes and challenges—and reflecting back and looking forward with our curriculums. Very purposeful and forward thinking discussions.:



Will Emms—Chair of Governors

Taking my 2 kids into school this morning, one dressed as cardboard armoured centurion and the other as a shield carrying barbarian for History Day, being greeted by Henry VIII at the school gate, it felt like a strangely 'normal' way to finish off what has been quite an extraordinary term. 8 weeks of home-schooling, the schools, teachers, children and parents all achieving gargantuan feats to keep the show on the road, but not only doing that, also constantly reviewing and improving the online and in-school offers during that time. Then the flip back round with all the children back into school and the challenges that that brought, a second start of the school year, 6 months down the line from the first. And on top of all that Mr Warren arriving as the new executive head, Ms Corpe taking on the Head of School role at Sebright and changes in the governors too!

I want to thank everyone for all their hard work, effort, patience and kindness as a community in each school and across the federation and to invite you all to take a moment to recognise what's been achieved. We're not completely out of the woods yet, but we've got a strong foundation to build on. Have a great Easter break and see you in the Summer term.

Madeleine Davis—Chair of Lauriston Committee

When we last met on 3 February the focus was on reviewing remote learning and planning for a safe and successful return of all pupils. Since then there has been some really positive feedback from Hackney Education and from parents and pupils about the return to school, which has been great to hear. Well done and thanks to the whole school team! Before we next meet in late April Will (Chair of Governors) and Madeleine (Lauriston committee chair) will be visiting school to see how reading and literacy is taught, and to meet with school staff leading on this area of the curriculum. It will be fantastic to be able to be in the school again after so long working remotely! As summer approaches we are looking forward to working closely with Robin, Louis, staff, pupils and the Lauriston PTA on future plans and strategy, including for outdoor learning and play, development of the school website and communication with parents and carers.

Laura Stacey—Chair of Sebright Committee

The schools have all had to face challenges in these difficult times and on behalf of the Sebright Local School committee I would like to express our heartfelt and sincere thanks for all that has been accomplished by the staff, our pupils and our parents. You have pushed on regardless and shown the true spirit of what it means to part of the Sebright family.

The reports back to Governors have shown that a lot of hard work has gone in to ensuring that our pupils continue to make progress and strive to achieve their learning goals. It hasn't been an easy road but you have shown what courage and determination can achieve.

We hope to be able to visit you in person soon to celebrate your achievements.

Marisa Childs—Chair of Daubeney Committee

We are so pleased to have welcomed back everybody at Daubeney. As Governors our main focus has been supporting Mr Logan and the team to ensure the whole school community feels safe to be back at school. We have been looking back at how successful remote learning has been during lockdown and the results of that learning since we opened the gates. We are very aware that for some children, returning back to schools has been an amazing experience and for others, transitioning back has been difficult at times and I can assure that the priority for Governors, is to support creating a sense of rhythm back at school, to ensure the children continue accessing the very best learning. I have not been in school for a very long time and am excited that we are working on a plan of small groups of Governors Days back in school during the Summer term. Wishing you a very happy Easter.

Happy Summer Term Ahead