



Heelands School Summer 1 Newsletter 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back to the last term of the school year which no doubt will fly by incredibly quickly. As life begins to return to relative normality we will be making some gradual changes in school to enable us to deliver our usual curriculum. We will monitor any changes we make and intend to take things slowly and steadily. All staff have been able to self-test twice weekly for some time now and many of us have had the first vaccination which gives added confidence to our plans to move forward. I'm glad to say that our midday supervisor team have also returned to work with no adverse effects for them or the children.

Returning to school normality

The first part of the plan will be that while the children remain in their Monkeys/Lions and Zebras/Giraffes bubbles, some staff will move to teach in other bubbles. For example, a group of Monkeys pupils are now taught phonics by Mrs. Creaser from Giraffes, Mrs. Foster will be taking Forest School for Y2 this week (great excitement at that news!) so Mrs. Bartnikiewicz from Y2 will be in Monkeys on Thursday afternoons and Mrs. Kershaw will also teach Y2 music. All our usual safety precautions will be adhered to and we believe the children will benefit enormously from the additional curriculum sessions.

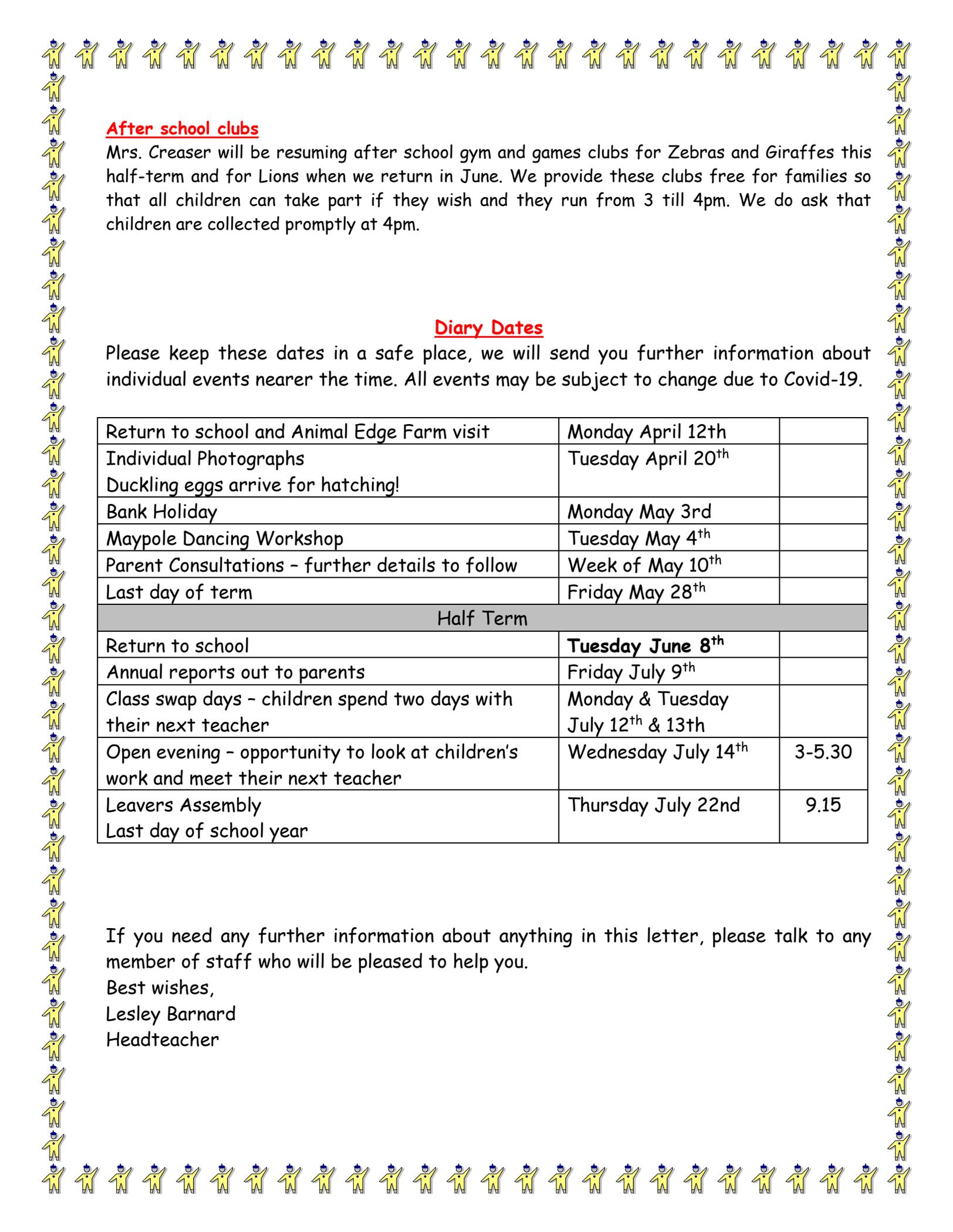
By the end of the half-term I am very hopeful that we will be in a position to have whole school assemblies, that the children will be able to mix freely and that we will be able to have a normal summer term with school trips and visits back on the agenda. I will keep parents fully informed of the next steps.

Curriculum enhancement

The children had an amazing time with the farm visit on Monday from Animal Edge, the animals and staff were fantastic with great patience shown all round, Chico the poor pony was groomed to within an inch of his life but didn't seem to mind a bit! And whatever your children may tell you, Animal Edge definitely did not bring a kangaroo along! This year more than ever, we are packing this last term with visits, workshops and experiences to make the children's time at school as exciting as possible.

School lunches

The children seem to be enjoying the lunches from our new provider, we hope that we'll be able to return to hot lunches soon, perhaps even from half-term depending on the Covid situation.



After school clubs

Mrs. Creaser will be resuming after school gym and games clubs for Zebras and Giraffes this half-term and for Lions when we return in June. We provide these clubs free for families so that all children can take part if they wish and they run from 3 till 4pm. We do ask that children are collected promptly at 4pm.

Diary Dates

Please keep these dates in a safe place, we will send you further information about individual events nearer the time. All events may be subject to change due to Covid-19.

Return to school and Animal Edge Farm visit	Monday April 12 th	
Individual Photographs Duckling eggs arrive for hatching!	Tuesday April 20 th	
Bank Holiday	Monday May 3 rd	
Maypole Dancing Workshop	Tuesday May 4 th	
Parent Consultations - further details to follow	Week of May 10 th	
Last day of term	Friday May 28 th	
Half Term		
Return to school	Tuesday June 8th	
Annual reports out to parents	Friday July 9 th	
Class swap days - children spend two days with their next teacher	Monday & Tuesday July 12 th & 13 th	
Open evening - opportunity to look at children's work and meet their next teacher	Wednesday July 14 th	3-5.30
Leavers Assembly Last day of school year	Thursday July 22 nd	9.15

If you need any further information about anything in this letter, please talk to any member of staff who will be pleased to help you.

Best wishes,
Lesley Barnard
Headteacher