



# OLD PALACE PRIMARY SCHOOL



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21st July 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The school has now closed for the Summer holiday. This has been a most challenging year. Back in March we had not even heard of Zoom, but we were able to adjust and quickly develop resources to support home learning. Then in May came the announcement that schools would be reopening to certain year groups, and again we rose to the challenge, managing to reopen to Reception, Year 1, 5 & 6, despite the continuously changing guidance from the Department from Education.

The admin team and Parent Workers have continued to work throughout this period answering queries, and working long into the night to deal with the many issues caused by the Edenred voucher system. Teachers have willingly worked through the Easter and half term holidays to support home learning and the Senior Leadership have worked tirelessly to develop home learning, to put in place new procedures and to complete all the necessary risk assessments needed to allow staff and children to return. The messages of support and thanks from some of our parents were greatly appreciated and helped to keep us all going on our darkest days.

Finally they now have some time so they can return refreshed and ready to face the hard work of helping the children to catch up from September. It is important too that the children take some time away from their studies, but that does not mean that their learning needs to stop. The summer holiday has always been a time for families to create memories together and to focus on learning experiences beyond the school curriculum. We have created a Summer Activities page on the school website (<https://oldpalaceprimary.co.uk/our-learning/summer-activities/>), which provides links for over 200 events that families can access together. Reading is of paramount importance, so we have added additional Bug Club books and we would encourage all our pupils to take part in the Ideas Store Summer Reading Challenge, which includes access to free e-books. Exercise is also essential for the children's physical and mental health, so we also encourage the children to continue with the daily mile, to try out the Change4Life games and to access events in the local parks.

As stated in my previous letter, we will be writing to parents towards the end of August to clarify the arrangements for September. Plans have been completed and staff have been onsite to set up the classrooms, but we are aware that the situation may change over the next few weeks. On a positive note, the safe procedures that we put in place in June have proved successful with no adults or children onsite contracting the virus, so we are very confident that children can return safely once attendance again becomes compulsory. There are a number of works being completed over the summer, including a £250,000 refit of the cold and hot water supply and refit of the KS1 children toilets. These will also support our reopen, providing improved toilet and hand washing facilities and I am pleased to report that so far the works are on track to be completed on schedule.

May I wish everyone a happy and healthy summer holiday. We are excited about the return of the children, so please keep safe, including online, and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours faithfully,

Mr G. Palmer  
**Headteacher.**



Headteacher: Mr G. Palmer BA (Hons)  
School Business Manager: Michele Walsham