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| **Dear Friends,**  Welcome back to Parkfield Press. We are going to trial issuing this newsletter on a monthly basis during this academic year.  It has been a summer break like no other in my memory. I won’t dwell on the examination debacle, regular policy U-turns or the regular arrival of new advice that blocks up my inbox! And yet, I am hopeful and optimistic about the autumn term, it’s always my favourite time of year.  I hope that you and your families managed to have some form of holiday. I wasn’t able to get away, my holiday was cancelled and I consoled myself by re-investing some of the returned money on a greenhouse. I can hear many of you thinking ’exactly how old is he?’, the answer of course is that I am old enough to have now become my father. I can’t tell you how thrilled he was when I told him about my investment. It was almost as if he wasn’t proud of me until this moment.  Talking of pride, I cannot tell you how proud I am of the team at Parkfield. All their planning is now bearing fruit and we are ready to welcome our children back into school. I was also thrilled to see a number of staff lead training sessions with staff for the first time – they were brilliant.  I have no doubt that you will have lots of questions over the coming weeks, it’s important to remind you that we don’t believe in stupid questions, if you need to know something, ask (but do read our letters first). At some point in the term we will send out a questionnaire to gauge how things are going, this will give you a good opportunity to provide us with useful feedback.  Finally, I know that it is pointless telling you not to worry – it’s what parents do! Rest assured that we are doing everything in our power to keep your precious children safe as they return to school.    Principal & Director of Secondary Education |

**Primary News**

**Leadership News**

I wanted to remind you that we have slightly adjusted the leadership in the primary phases this year.

Miss Wilcox is now responsible for the entire Primary school, working closely with Mrs Claxton who remains in charge of EYFS and KS1. Miss Wilcox and

Mrs Claxton make for a formidable team and they are being wonderfully supported by Mrs Monk, our SENDCo.

**Daily Health & Wellbeing activities**

* Children to use emotion cards or whiteboards during registration
* Children may choose to add their comments into the worry box
* Children to use whiteboards to write a reflective comment on anything they are worried about and what they are excited about.
* Teacher to circulate and identify those children who may be in need of further support.
* Teacher to acknowledge that they are aware how they are feeling and they will discuss this with them at some point in the day.

**Homework**

1. Two pieces of homework a week:

* Monday – Maths
* Wednesday - Literacy/project work

2. All homework will be issued via Microsoft Teams. Children who will struggle to access this will get a paper copy.

3. Spelling Lists will be issued on Microsoft Teams

**Reading**

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|  | Reading is a critical skill for all children. We would like parents to help their children to become fluent readers. To support this, we would encourage all parents to listen to their children reading for 15minutes, three times a week. |
| If you can do more, and don’t forget that it is important to read to your children. This shows them that you value reading. | |



Our work with ‘Times Table Rock Stars’ will begin again shortly. Children will be re-issued with their login details and their account should have kept a record of their progress to date. We will, as ever, be looking to reward children for their progress with TTRS!

**Addressing gaps in learning**

We recognise that our children may have had very different experiences of lockdown. Some will have thrived and learnt a great deal and some may have learnt very little. At this stage, we can’t make any assumptions about gaps in learning. However, it is critical to address this issue as most of the learning going forward needs to be built on prior knowledge and understanding.

We want you to rest assured that our primary concern is to get children settled back into school routines. To support this, we will have deliberate policy of putting wellbeing first. When we feel that the children are settled, we will undertake a number of base line assessments to help us identify the gaps. When we have this information we can use it to shape the schemes of learning for the coming year. If you have any concerns about this, please speak to your child’s class teacher.

**Practical bits and bobs**

**Furry gear:** We would ask parents to not send in to school anything that is furry! We are not referring to pets here but things that children sometimes like to bring to school, furry lunch boxes, furry pencil cases, furry key rings. These items are almost impossible to clean and could easily carry the virus into school.



**PE Kit:** On the days that children have PE we would ask that you send them into school in their PE kit. This will save time and remove the need for needing dedicated changing areas.

**Hand sanitiser:** we know that a number of children don’t get on so well with the hand sanitiser that we have in school. If your child requires a different form of sanitiser, please ensure that they bring this into school every day.

**Assemblies:** For the time being, all our assemblies will be held virtually. We will look for opportunities to meet together in our bubbles when this is possible.

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| **Poetry Please**  This seems to be an incredibly apt poem to share at the start of our new year. Now, more than ever our individual actions will have an impact on those around us.  No man is an island, Entire of itself, Every man is a piece of the continent, A part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less. As well as if a promontory were. As well as if a manor of thy friend's Or of thine own were: Any man's death diminishes me, Because I am involved in mankind, And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;  It tolls for thee.  John Donne |

**Gratitude diary:**

1. I am grateful for all the parents who have offered to help across this year – we will try and be in contact soon
2. I am grateful for the work of the brilliant team at Dorset fencing. They have done a great job installing new fences across the school.
3. I am hugely thankful that we have Maria Costa Silva on our team. She is one of our cleaners, a bus chaperone and generally a lovely person – what would we do without her?

**Secondary News**

**Leadership News:**

Miss Taylor now has a substantive role as Vice Principal of the whole school and she will deputise when Mr Golding is away on Trust business.

Miss Taylor will take direct responsibility for the Secondary school. She will be ably supported in this by Mrs Brown, who will lead on teaching and learning and Mr Lloyd, who will take responsibility for pastoral matters.

**D.E.A.R**

D.E.A.R stands for ‘Drop Everything And Read’. Reading is one of the most important skills for any pupil to develop, almost all learning will at some point require reading. To support this we have added a 15 minute D.E.A.R session straight after lunch, Monday – Thursday. This will also give Community Leaders the opportunity for them to touch base with their pupils more regularly

**The Pastoral team**

Mr Lloyd will work closely with Mrs Ainley on supporting pastoral issues in the secondary phases. Mrs Ainley is also our safeguarding lead. The pastoral base has now moved and can be found at the top of the stairs near PE.

**Addressing gaps in Learning**

The secondary team will address any gaps in learning through the use of informal assessments. This could be mini-tests at the start of lessons or the completion of exam style questions. At this stage we do not intend to run a battery of formal tests as we think this might be detrimental to pupil wellbeing.

**Pupil Wellbeing**

Community Leaders have received specific training on how they might support pupil wellbeing over the coming weeks. The strategies used will be similar to those used in Primary i.e. emoji cards, writing thoughts in a reflective journal and mindfulness activities. We will of course keep all these activities under review to ensure that they are effective and useful over time.

**Getting in contact**

The first port of call for all parents of secondary pupils is the Community Leader. In our experience, they are in the best position to resolve most issues. The team is as follows:

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| 7F | Miss Urch |
| 7K | Mrs Courtauld |
| 7P | Miss Tournaire |
| 8F | Mr Moseley |
| 8K | Miss Bray |
| 8P | Mrs Read |
| 9F | Miss Walton & Mr Hotson |
| 9P | Mrs Cosserat & Miss Woodley |
| 10P | Mrs Brown |
| 11P | Mrs King & Mrs Scourfield |

**Home Learning**

**KS3 home learning**: In addition to this, teachers may set tasks to consolidate learning, or prepare for future learning. This may include:

* Extended research projects
* Pre-reading about and/or around a topic
* Challenge-based activities that stretch thinking and presentation skills
* Suggestions for visits linked to learning in the classroom
* Links to appropriate webpages, activities and online games to support additional learning at home.

Formal written homework can be provided for children following an individual parental request. This homework will be in the form of English and Mathematics homework books (such as those sold by ‘Schofield and Sims’). This homework is intended to be self-managed by the child and parent.

**KS4 home learning:** Students in Years 10 and 11 will be supported to create their own home learning timetable for their GCSE subjects, and they will be responsible for following this timetable. Home learning will support specific aspects of their GCSE courses and will include:

* Revision of key theories, events and processes to be tested in the classroom
* Application and mastery of key skills e.g. structuring answers to exam-style questions
* Pre-reading for future units of work
* Planning and/or completion of coursework

All students have access to the LRC Monday to Thursday 08:00 – 08:40 and during lunchtimes, where they can complete home learning activities with access to computers.

**The One way system**

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| https://www.securitysafetyproducts.co.uk/images/products_image2-12176-d.jpg | In order to run our bubbles in the secondary phases of the school we have instigated a one way system throughout F block. We know that this is less than ideal. However, it is the only way we can minimise contact between the two bubbles that have to use the specialist secondary rooms. |

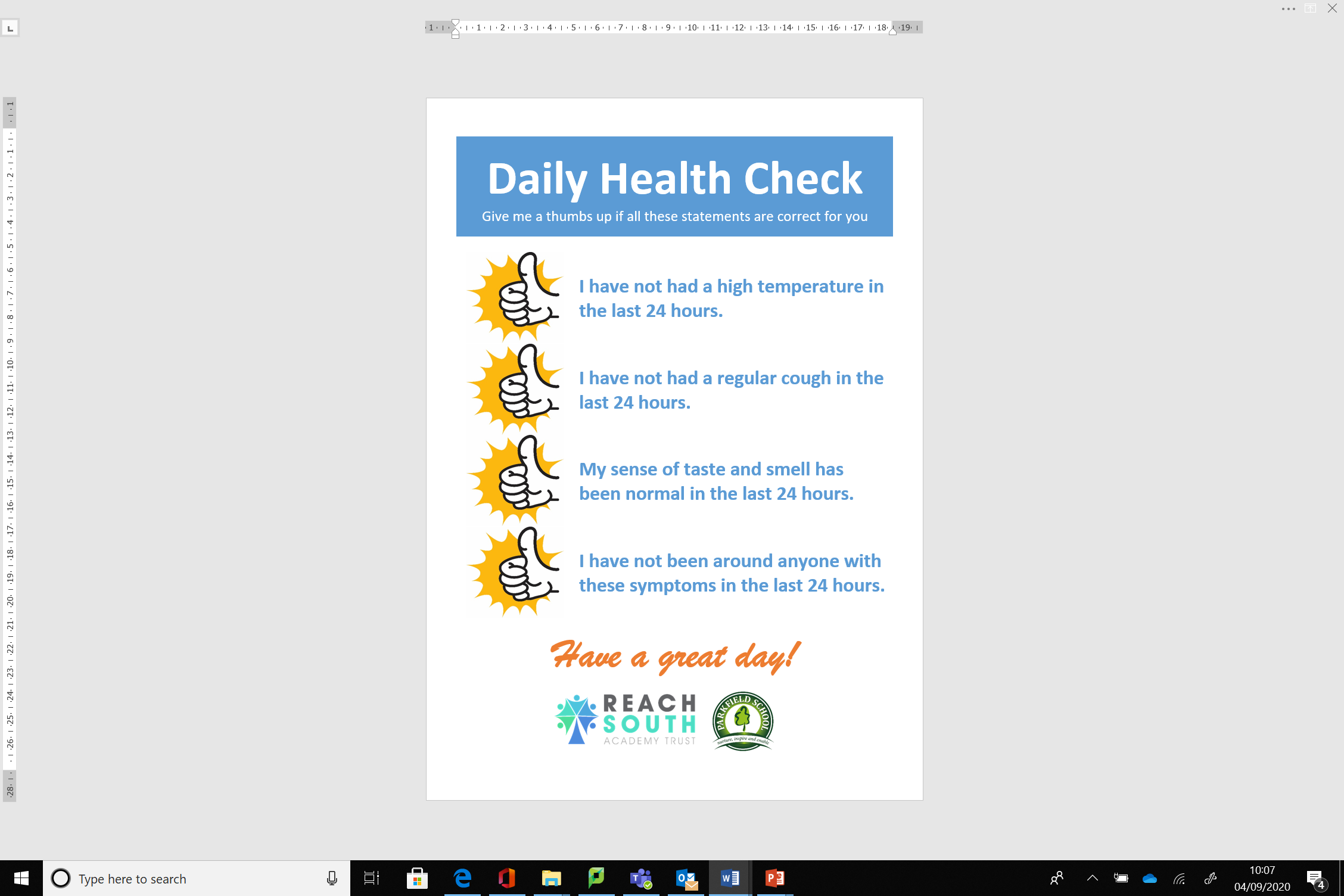
**Revision & catch up sessions**

At this stage of the school year we do not know if it will be possible to run after school catch up sessions or GCSE revision sessions after school. We will review the risks attached to running these types of activities and let you know in due course.

**Whole School reminders**

**Health screening:**

In our recent letter we shared with you our process for completing a daily health screening. It is so important that we all take this activity seriously. I have enclosed the poster below.



**Key Dates**

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| **September** |  |
| Monday 14th | Roald Dahl Day |
| Wednesday 16th | School Photos (portrait) |
| Wednesday 30th | Rose Review day 1  (This is an internal Trust review similar to Ofsted) |
| **October** |  |
| Thursday 1st | Rose Review day 2 |
| Thursday 15th | Flu immunisation – Whole School |
| Tuesday 6th | HPV vaccinations (all Y9 & Y10&11 girls) |
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**Stop Press: reminder to drivers**

We would be grateful if parents would not drive secondary pupils right up to their entrance gate. This area is very busy with children at the start and end of the day.