



Welcome back everyone.

I am really thrilled to welcome all children and families back to our NPAT family of schools after such a prolonged and unprecedented period of closure for so many of our children. Welcome also to all new staff who have joined NPAT this term, or who have changed role within our Trust. A particular welcome to Mark Wilson who is the new Headteacher at Lings Primary School and to Sue Hughes who has started in role as the Trust Leader for English, alongside her role as part-time Deputy Head at Rectory Farm Primary School. And a special welcome to all eleven newly qualified teachers joining us. Teaching is such a great profession and we are proud to welcome and support them all as they begin their careers in teaching.

The start to the school term has been smooth and calm thanks to the high levels of support from our parents and carers, and to the outstanding preparation work of all NPAT staff to ensure that our schools are Covid-secure. Thank you all.

Some of you will already be aware that we are forward planning for the possibility that children, or groups of children, may need to continue their learning at home if they are asked to self-isolate or become symptomatic. We have planned and are ready for this eventuality and later in this newsletter one of our Headteachers explains the process if or when this happens.

In the meantime our schools are working hard to support children, identifying any gaps in learning and helping children to catch up where needed. Our children, of course, are thrilled to be back into the school routines and happy to see their friends and teachers. Julia Kedwards,

Happy Autumn Term.

Chief Executive Officer

Congratulations to Simon de Senlis who have been successfully awarded the status of Microsoft Showcase School after having to reapply as their previous status expired. Many schools across the country did not retain this status and it is a credit to the work that the school does both in it's own technological practice and in supporting others, both in our Trust and beyond.



Northampton Primary Academy Trust

Abington Vale Primary School, Blackthorn Primary School, Ecton Brook Primary School, East Hunsbury Primary School, Headlands Primary School, Lings Primary School, Rectory Farm Primary School, Simon de Senlis Primary School, Thorplands Primary School, Upton Meadows Primary School and in partnership with Weston Favell CE Primary School
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With much of the summer term and some of the summer holiday spent by Headteachers and NPAT Leaders carrying out risk assessments and implementing measures to fully prepare NPAT schools for the 'new normal', the initial shock and concern of an NPAT school - Blackthorn Primary School - being amongst the early group in the county to discover a Covid-19 case, was quickly replaced by a sense of reassurance that the measures were actually tested early on and were considered robust and effective by Public Health England.



Blackthorn Headteacher Mrs. Becca Williams talks through the process that school goes through when a Covid-19 case is confirmed in either staff or children.

"We contact a dedicated number at Public Health England (PHE) to report that the school has a confirmed case. PHE are incredibly helpful, you're given a specific contact you deal with and you go through what the school's procedures are and what we'd done already that morning ...and then we talked through our school day and protective measures in place at the school".

"They were very happy with all that and didn't feel that it needed to go any further, from there we informed parents. The area (in the school) gets locked down, each bubble in school has its own area, we've set it up that way, that area then gets physically locked, so when the cleaners come in it can be left 72 hours, then be cleaned".

Once the site is secure the focus of the staff moves to supporting parents at home by continuing the children's learning using equipment and methods that are already familiar to them.

Affected Blackthorn children were sent a special pack which included wipe boards, pens and books in a bid to replicate the classroom environment as closely as possible.



As the term has moved on schools across the county and indeed the nation have had similar experiences and it has become a part of life. It is inevitable that cases will occur but parents and staff can rest assured that...

...our schools have been made as safe as possible and plans are in place for children to go home if needed and continue their learning.

The following message to parents is from Anna Carter, Trust Lead for Curriculum and Professional Learning:

"As you know our schools all worked hard during lockdown to provide remote learning for your children and we appreciate everyone's efforts to engage with this. The Department for Education have issued guidelines to schools to ensure that they are fully prepared for remote learning in the eventuality of a child, year group or whole school having to access school from home. Your school will keep you informed about their strategy for remote learning and support you when and if needed."

Finally, the message from Mrs. Williams on behalf of all our Headteachers, to any parent anxious about sending their child into school at the moment:

"Talk to the school, meet with somebody, even if it's at the gate, don't be afraid to say you're scared. Schools will support parents, they will listen to their concerns and they will want to do everything they can to help and put things in place so families feel confident and happy for their children to come back to school. Children are happy at school, they're happy to be here."



The importance of outdoor exercise for children was made clear in the recent Government guidelines to help schools safely reopen after lockdown. The

benefits of outdoor sport and play have long been recognised: Improves vision, promotes social skills, increases attention span, reduces stress, increases vitamin D levels. With careful management as per the guidelines e.g children kept in consistent groups, equipment thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups, our teachers are making sure that these benefits continue to out weigh any risk. For lots of fun ideas to support keeping your child active outdoors at home [Click here](#)

Children @ Sds Learning to skip



Headlands Primary School children and staff returned in September to some good news and some exciting changes.

Woodlands, Headlands' Specialist Unit for children with communication and interaction difficulties including Autism, has expanded to take on an extra class of ten children. Presently a mobile classroom is being used but planned building work is due to start at the end of October.

This awesome new playground—a fantastic resource for outdoor PE! - is a small part of the expansion and lots more exciting things are planned for once the building work is completed.

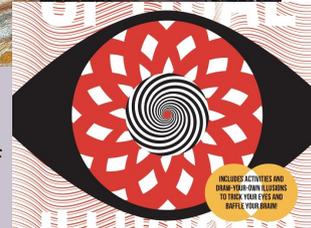
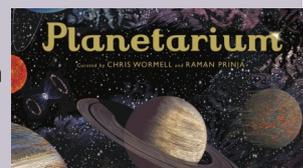


Another early surprise was notification that the school had been selected as part of the judging panel for the Royal Society's Young People's Book Prize 2020.

The Young People's Book Prize aims to promote literacy in young people and to inspire them to read about science. The Prize is unique in that the winner is selected by judging panels made up of young people at schools across the country from a shortlist curated by an adult judging panel.

[Planetary: Welcome to the Museum](#) was chosen by children as the winning book for the 2019 and [Optical Illusions](#),

which combines the instant appeal of some mind-blowing optical illusions with easy to follow explanations of the science behind the illusion was selected by children (including a group from Headlands) for the 2018 prize.



Staff felt it was a fantastic experience for the children and are very much looking forward to the arrival of the shortlist and getting lost again in the world of fascinating science.

[Click here](#) for more information