

THE HAMLET HERALD



'Outstanding learning, within a glittering curriculum, where everyone matters'

ISSUE 38 | 18th July 2025

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Claire Purcell | Head of School: Mr Tom Salomonson

Email: office@dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk | Tel: 020 7525 9188/9

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEAD

Welcome back to a brand new academic year at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School!

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. As we come together for another year of learning and growth, I wanted to share some exciting updates and improvements that have taken place across our school site over the holidays. It has been a very busy summer indeed.



New library furniture, paid for by the PTA

Thanks to the incredible generosity and hard work of our PTA, our library has been transformed with new furniture and a significant investment in brand new books and board games – all ready to inspire our children's love of reading and learning. We're truly grateful for this support, which makes such a difference to our school community.



New fascia on Pickwick woodwork

Our premises team has also been busy with a number of long-awaited projects, including essential repairs to the music room roofs and the woodwork on the outside of Pickwick building. The Pickwick girls' and boys' toilets have undergone a full refurbishment, ensuring a fresher and more comfortable environment for our pupils. All of these works have been funded by our central trust capital fund.

You'll notice some changes to our facilities as well: our wraparound care has now moved to the Griffin building in anticipation of the launch of 'The Nook' on Monday, and first aid has been relocated to the Burbage building so children can access support directly from the main playground.

On top of these major projects, we've also carried out our usual ongoing maintenance and a full summer deep clean to ensure the school is spotless and ready for the new term.

A huge thank you goes to Jim, Dan and Ade for managing this significant set of summer works, ensuring we're all returning to a clean, safe and secure site. Special thanks, too, to Allie Green for dedicating her time to putting our library back together, ready for all to enjoy.

Wishing you all a fantastic start to the year!



New books ready to go on the shelves

PE DAYS

Alongside the physical changes to the site, we will have a few changes to timetables for the new year. Perhaps most importantly, we have altered the PE day for our year groups. Please also remember that children can wear their old branded PE tops or a navy top, branded or un-branded.

Monday – Y5

Tuesday – Y6

Wednesday – Y3

Thursday – Y4

Friday Dance – Y6

Swimming will start for Y5s later this term – we will let you know in advance.

BREAKFAST AND AFTERSCHOOL CARE

THE NOOK

Another major change is our wraparound care provision, which brings a host of benefits:

- Unlimited places – use **ParentPay** to book up to 24 hours in advance for a guaranteed place (or call the office on the day)
- Hot food cooked on site by our chef each evening
- Improved space and new equipment

Y3 Parents – please note, ParentPay should be available from Monday but you are welcome to call the office to book too.

To contact The Nook Please call the main school number 020 7525 9188

Important: **Pick up and collection from our Turney Road entrance**



KEY DATES

Monday 1st September

All children return to school
Y5 PE begins: please bring kit

Tuesday 2nd September

Y6 PE begins: please bring kit

Wednesday 3rd September

Y3 PE begins: please bring kit

Thursday 4th September

Y4 PE begins: please bring kit

Friday 5th September

Y6 Dance begins: please bring kit

As well as posting key dates here, we are encouraging all parents to [subscribe to our School Calendar](#).

This will replace our 'Key Dates' sheets. The main advantage being that you can download the dates onto your phone and have all important information at your fingertips whilst any changes, cancellations or updates will be reflected immediately.

TEMPORARY CROSSING POINT

At the time of writing, there is a temporary crossing in place outside the school entrance on Dulwich Village. Please be aware that this may add to your commute time and that both pedestrians and drivers may be less likely to respect the temporary traffic lights, particularly if your child is coming to school on their own.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

As ever, we are seeking volunteers to support us with our exceptional suite of opportunities. In particular, we are seeking a football coach to support Dan Lehner with the popular early morning football. This will allow us to separate boys and girls which increases capacity, participation and enjoyment. If you can support with this or in any other way, [please click here](#).

UPDATES AND REMINDERS 25-26

Linked to pupil voice work last term, we have made some simple changes and reminders for next year.

Tweaks to the Behaviour Policy

This year we will be working on a more restorative approach to behaviour, based on empathy, relationships and high expectations. Some of our current consequences have, despite never being intended in this way, come to be interpreted as highly punitive. Whilst we will still implement consequences for behaviours, they will wherever possible and appropriate be accompanied by restorative conversations.

In a busy and large school, it is important to maintain high standards of behaviour and to have well understood routines in order to keep all children safe. As such, we will continue to require support from parents to ensure all children are demonstrating our values.

It is also important to ensure that our rules are being followed. As such, we will be working hard to ensure that children understand the rules in place to keep them safe.

Uniform

The uniform [policy is available here](#). Please note, many children have begun to wear cycling/figure hugging/ Lycra shorts and leggings and, never part of our uniform, these will not be permitted from Monday.

Smart Phone Free School

We'd like to thank our for supporting us to become a Smart Phone Free School.

Please note only 'dumb phones' without internet access are permitted on site and must be handed in to the office each morning. Some parents want the additional tracking option and so you would need to get a tracking device such as a 'Apple AirTag' or similar, though to be clear we do not believe this is necessary.

Smart watches are also prohibited on school site and will be kept and returned to parents.

If you are considering purchasing a smart phone for your child, please be aware it will not be

permitted on school premises and will be confiscated if found. Please make yourselves aware of legal age limits for social media sites and ensure that you have appropriate parental controls on any internet enabled device your child has access to.

Pencil Cases

Your children have requested to be allowed to bring their own stationery. We are happy to facilitate this: they may bring in a small, clearly named pencil case that would fit in a tray (maximum 10cm in height by 25cm in length). Inside their pencil case they may bring:

- A pencil, sharpener and rubber
- A black ink pen
- A named glue stick
- A small ruler
- A small set of colouring pencils

Any pencil cases which are overly distracting or too large will be sent home. All items are optional and brought in at your own risk and school will continue to supply all stationery for the children as they require it.

Break Times

We are reinstating our afternoon break. Many years ago, when school places were at a premium, we agreed to take an additional class which quickly became known as the 'bulge' class. In order to get everyone through the dining hall we collapsed our 10-minute afternoon break into the lunch break.

We believe that by shortening lunch by 10 minutes and reinstating the 10-minute afternoon break, we will impact positively in two ways. Firstly, the hour-long lunch will be more manageable for children and, secondly, the afternoon break will support improved concentration for our pupils during lesson 5. All achieved without diminishing our 1 hour 25 minutes of unstructured play which is above 1990 average for KS2, despite a steady decline in free play in the past three decades nationally.

Playground Equipment

Children continue to be allowed to bring tennis balls, plastic cricket bats, ping pong sets and Rubik's cubes to play with during play and lunch breaks.



EPEC BEING A PARENT

For parents of children aged 2 – 11 years

This 9 week course helps parents learn practical skills for everyday life.

- Looking after yourself as a parent
- Recognise and manage your children's emotions
- Learn positive parenting strategies
- Support your children's resilience

JOIN NOW

Contact: Claire Gager

Email:
Claire.gager@southwark.gov.uk

Call: 07547 659 646

WHEN IS IT ON?

TUESDAY

STARTING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025

**1ST PLACE CHILDREN & FAMILY HUB
12 CHUMLEIGH STREET
LONDON
SE5 0RN**

**What time?
10am-12pm**





Southwark Children & Family Hubs

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

For parents of children aged 8 – 18 years

This 12 week course helps parents and carers to

- Build positive family relationships
- Manage anger and stress
- Implement effective discipline strategies
- Understand your child's development
- Recognise and value your family and cultural traditions
- Develop effective communication
- Meet others and share ideas

JOIN NOW



Who to contact: Rebecca Arinze

Email: rebecca.arinze@southwark.gov.uk
Call: 07939635458

WHEN IS IT ON?

Starting Tuesday 23rd Sept 2025

Face to Face English
Online/Face to Face - Spanish

Starting Wed 24th Sept 2025

Face to Face - Arabic

(online groups also available)

What time?

10am-1pm



strengthening
families
strengthening
communities

 **Race
Equality
Foundation**



Southwark Children & Family Hubs

Southwark
Council