

Harbour International Newsletter 25/06/2021



This week's newsletter is full of important information on a variety of topics. New staff are introduced, an outline of the National plan budgeting is included and there is an update on the new Covid protocols which have just been released for schools.

I wish you all a happy weekend.



Holidays, Quarantine and the Return to School - Tuesday 31st August



The beginning of the school academic year is a very important time for children as they settle into classroom routines, form bonds with their new classmates and get to know their new teacher. The Dutch government also place great importance on these first two weeks of the new school year and due to this the school is **not allowed** to authorise holidays for the first two weeks of Term 1.

Any requests for absence for the beginning of Term 1 will need to be requested from the Leerplicht directly.

Additionally, Leerplicht have informed us that from now on quarantine will count as extra leave (with the exception of emergency situations) and that the quarantine time needs to be taken into account when planning your holidays this Summer. As a school, we are obliged to report any late returns in August or September to Leerplicht who will investigate.

I understand this is not an easy message to hear for international families who may not have seen family in a long time, however we felt it important for you to have a full understanding of the rules surrounding leave.



Covid Regulations



Today I have received new Covid protocols and guidance. Below are some key features of the changes.

Changes:

- Classes can now play together at play time across the year group (not whole school yet)
- Parents can enter school playground without a face mask
- Children in Group 7 and 8 no longer need to wear face masks
- Staff only obliged to wear masks when keeping 1.5 m away is not possible

Same:

- Staggered pick up and drop off times
- If children have a cold they need to stay at home and the advice is to seek a covid test
- A child with mild complaints who has not been tested may return to school if they are completely symptom-free for 24 hours. Children who still have the same mild complaints after 7 days can also go back to school.
- Staff and parents to keep 1.5m away from each other



Covid Regulations - Visitors to the School Building



Although the rules have relaxed slightly in this area, we still ask that for the remainder of the term, parents do not enter the school building. For this reason, we will continue to have parent meetings on line and the Group 7&8 concert will be held outdoors with the 1.5m rule being followed.

As with the remainder of the Covid protocols, we hope they will be reviewed again soon and that we will be able to return to a more normal school life from August.



National Plan Budget



As mentioned in previous newsletters the government have given all schools in the Netherlands a sum of money to help the children overcome some of the impacts of lockdown. After careful consultation with the staff and approval of the MR, I can now share with you the key areas that we will invest the money in.

Please see the following slides for the details.



National Plan Budget



- Learning Support: 1 x full time and 1 x part time Learning Support Assistants to work with children one to one and in small groups.
- Music Teacher 2 days a week
- Develop the library and the outside areas
- Teacher to cover the 6 learning coaches we have in school so that teachers can work together and develop practice - 3 days a week (more details on our learning coaches next week).
- Staff Professional Development in Maths No Problem to further embed the scheme
- Additional resources across Science, Music and PE to enhance the curriculum, more class iPads
- 2x Outdoor trips to local nature reserve.



Reports and Parent Meetings



On Thursday 1st July you will be emailed you child's end of year report.

On Monday 28th June there will be a Seesaw message with details of how to sign up for a parent meeting where you can discuss the content of the report. As previously, the consultation will be held on line.



New staff joining us in August 2021



As mentioned in a previous newsletter we have several staff moving on next year which means we also welcome a range of new staff too.

The next slides introduces those new staff.



Jessica Sarmias- New Class Teacher



I was born in Zimbabwe and then relocated to South Africa. I gained a 4 year Bachelors of Education degree, and then followed this with teaching in South Africa, a country rich in cultural diversity.

I lived and taught in Vietnam, teaching English full time at a private Vietnamese School and then moved onto the Vietnam International Australia School.

After traveling and living abroad in and around Asia, Africa, Europe and America, I have found myself in the Netherlands, back in a multicultural classroom as a Year 3 English teacher at the European School of The Hague. I have a passion for education and the ability to integrate theoretical concepts and practical ideas, and apply them to a fun and dynamic classroom.



Pablo Riera - New Class Teacher



My name is Pablo Riera and I am originally from Spain. I have had the opportunity to teach in both Europe and Latin America. I am extremely passionate about history and I love discovering the past by travelling and meeting new people. In my free time I love doing outdoor sports and drawing. I am excited to see you all at Harbour International School.



Elizabeth Gulhati - New Class Teacher



I am delighted to be teaching at Harbour International School next year. I have worked, as a teacher, for eleven years. During this time, I have gained a wealth of knowledge teaching at an outstanding English primary school and a variety of British international schools.



Suyog Sotang - Music Teacher 2 days a week



I am Suyog Sotang born and raised in Kathmandu, Nepal. I am a music teacher, composer/producer and passionate about singing and playing instruments. I had an amazing 4+ years of teaching and learning experience at The British School of Kathmandu, where I had the opportunity to explore international mindedness and was quickly attracted towards it. I was fortunate enough to get a postgraduate degree in education whilst I was working which gave me opportunities for my professional growth.

Besides my professional life, I am very outdoorsy and love getting myself into adventures, I love exploring and of course travelling. I am super excited to meet everyone and become a part of the community at Harbour International.



Reminder - End of Term



Please note the dates and times for the end of this term:

End of School Year

School finishes for Groups 1-6 on Thursday 15th July at 12.00pm for Groups 1-3 and 12.15pm for Groups 4-6

Group 7 and 8 Finish on Tuesday 13th July at 3.00pm

