



# Serenity School

## Eltham Headlines

October 2020

Edition 01

### 'Inclusion, Independence and Self-Worth

#### New School, great start

Welcome to our first Serenity School Eltham Headlines. As a new school, we feel that we have made a great start to this academic year. It has been a great first half term where we have now settled into our new school building and have established effective routines and procedures. The students have enjoyed acclimatizing to their new surroundings, as well as meeting and making new friends. The wealth of experience in the staff team has also supported this process.

#### School Phone Number

As part of the new school opening process, it has taken a while, but we are thankful that we have now got a landline phone number where parents/carers are able to easily contact us at school. Thank you for your patience regarding this. The school telephone number is:

**020 4529-1960**

#### New School Website

We are very pleased about our new school website. Please visit our website to find out more information about our aims and expectations.

Additionally, what underpins all that we do for all students is embedded in our 5 core principles, which we have been looking at in during assemblies. These are:

**We look after ourselves**

**We look after each other**

**We look after our learning**

**We look after our school, community and world**

**We look after our future**

It is a pleasure to see students consistently displaying these core principles in their attitude and conduct at school. Please visit the school website to find out even more. The website address is: [www.serenityschool.org.uk](http://www.serenityschool.org.uk)

#### Show racism the Red card

We are excited to join a worthy charity to stamp out racism. During assembly, the students learned about racism and how wrong it is to hold racist views in our multi-cultural society where our differences are our strength. The school community remembered to support this charity by wearing **RED** and contributing £1.



**'Racism is something created and anything that has been created can be undone.'**

**Samuel Eto'o (professional footballer)**

Inclusion, Independence and Self-Worth

Show Racism the **Red** Card Assembly



## Inclusion, Independence and Self-Worth

### School Term and Holiday Dates 2020-2021

**AUTUMN TERM** Tuesday 3rd September - Friday 16 October  
Half-term holiday Monday 19 October - Friday 30 October

Monday 2 November - Friday 18 December  
School Holiday Monday 21 December - Friday 1 January

**SPRING TERM** Monday 4 January - Friday 12 February  
Half-term holiday Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February  
Monday 22 February - Wednesday 31 March

School Holiday Thursday 1 April - Friday 16 April  
(Easter weekend 2 - 5 April)

**SUMMER TERM** Monday 19 April - Friday 28 May  
(May Day bank holiday 3 May)  
Half-term holiday Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June  
(Spring bank holiday 31 May)  
Monday 7 June - Friday 16 July

### Welcome to New Staff Members

We are pleased to welcome the following members of staff to our Serenity School Eltham team:

**Ms McKay** – Form Tutor and English teacher

**Ms Potricelli** – KS4 Progress Partner

**Ms Von Meyer** – KS3 Progress Partner

**Mr Beveridge** – KS5 Instructor

**Mr Crick** – Behaviour Mentor

**Ms Francis-James** – Occupational Therapist

**Ms Bobarca** – Psychotherapist

**Ms Castellano** – Speech and Language Therapist

### New School Council Representatives

We are pleased to have elected the School Council Representatives in each year group. They are our first student leaders and will have a very important role to play in shaping the school by representing the voices of the students. Please watch this space to find out who they are...

### Safeguarding – Working together to safeguard children

Serenity School Eltham is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and parents/carers to share this commitment.

Safeguarding is a term which is broader than 'child protection' and relates to the actions taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The Designated Safeguarding Officer and Deputies are:

**Mrs S Hoyer** – Headteacher - DSO

**Dr I Simon** – Head of Secondary - DDSO

**Ms V Taggart** – SENDCO - DDSO



We are pleased to inform you that all of our secondary school students in key stages 3 and 4 – years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, will now be expected to wear a black blazer as part of their school uniform. We are incredibly pleased with how smart the students look in their school uniform each day, so thank you for your support in ensuring that this is the case. Please also remember that if you want to purchase an extra jumper, polo top or blazer, then these are available to buy from the school office.

## Inclusion, Independence and Self-Worth

### Primary News

#### Cherry Tree Class

Our class topic this term is called Scrumdiddlyumptious. We are exploring foods from around the world

Due to COVID-19 we were unable to go to our local supermarket, so we created our own supermarket called Serenity.



'It was so much fun! We walked down the corridor and our teacher told us to mind the road, she wanted to give us a real experience. We were given £5.00 each to buy food, we had to spend it wisely, otherwise we would have run out. Of course, we had to treat ourselves to a little treat, who wouldn't? Unfortunately, we did have to make a complaint because they had run out of green peppers and we needed them for our dinner.'

'Following on from our shopping trip, we have been baking. Now we know why food can be so expensive, especially bread, we were kneading it for ages! After that, we made blueberry muffins (with no eggs). During our baking lessons we have learnt how to read weighing scales and how to measure liquid; you really must concentrate otherwise you could ruin the recipe.'

'We all agreed that one of the most important things we learnt about is Fairtrade.'

Fairtrade – which means empowerment - is a worldwide movement that aims to help farmers and producers receive a fair price for the goods they produce, e.g. tea and coffee. In some countries, farmers work long hard days for very little money. If you see the Fairtrade sign on a package, (have a look next time you are in the supermarket) you will know that the farmers get a fair price for their goods. Just buying one item will make a difference.

# Primary students baking Blueberry Muffins



**Inclusion, Independence and Self-Worth**



**KS3 and KS4 Food  
Technology lessons -  
Biscuit making**

## Inclusion, Independence and Self-Worth'



Serenity School

### COVID-19 FAQs for Parents and Carers

Over the past weeks, school life has changed dramatically. The rapid pace of recent changes has thrown up a wide range of uncertainties and questions for parents, students and members of the school community. This page has been put together to provide simple answers to the most important questions.

If you have a question, please first read the FAQs and, if having read them you are still unable to find an answer to your question, please do not hesitate to contact the school office

As we go through this challenging time, different questions and answers will arise and we will keep you updated as we receive new guidance.

#### **I am worried that my child is vulnerable or that a family member is, should I send them back to school?**

Clinically extremely vulnerable people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category and contact the school.

#### **How will you ensure increased safety? Personal Hygiene:**

Staff give regular reminders on when and how to wash hands. Staff issue hand sanitizer as children enter the classroom after play and lunch break. Students will also be expected to sanitize their hands when they enter the dining hall and staff will remind them not to touch their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. Students will be reminded to cover their mouth and nose with a bent elbow, or use a tissue, when coughing or sneezing. If children sneeze or cough, they must wash their hands. There are posters around the school to remind children of expectations too.

#### **What arrangement will be in place if a child or adult is unwell/showing symptoms of fever/cough?**

All staff are aware of track and trace and we urge all parents to also be aware of the NHS check and trace service.

If your child has **one** of the following Covid-19 symptoms:-

- High temperature (this means they feel hot to touch on chest or back)
- A new continuous cough (this means coughing a lot more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)
- A loss or change to your sense of taste or smell (this means they have noticed they cannot smell or taste anything)

Please do not come to school; self-isolate the whole household while getting the symptomatic person tested. If the test is negative, then please send them back into school.

We have supplied PPE for first aiders and any staff coming into close contact with pupils. We have sanitizer, gloves, aprons, masks and eye protection available for any staff who wish to use PPE.

## **Inclusion, Independence and Self-Worth**

### **What will happen if I don't send my children back to school?**

The Government's guidance for parents makes clear that parents are expected to send their child to school. School is the best place for children to learn and for their mental wellbeing to have social interactions with their peers and teachers. Non-attendance will be marked as an absence.

### **Who can bring my child to School?**

If adults do bring children to school, we would encourage only one parent bring them and to social distance outside the school. Only students will be allowed to enter the school grounds and only through the allocated entry point.

### **Who can pick up my child from School?**

If your child does not walk home alone, please come alone as far as possible and keep your distance from other parents and staff. We do encourage adults to wear a face mask whilst on the school site. If your child is not collected 10 minutes after their collection time, they will be brought back to the main building.

### **How can I contact my child's Tutor?**

Parents are expected to phone and email rather than visit. Any visit to the school must be made via appointment and will receive a copy of our visitors' policy. Appointments will not be made at the start and end of the day to maximise social distancing. When visiting the school office for an appointment, parents and visitors are to use the sanitizers and should remain within the marked spots in the reception area.

### **How will you ensure students social distance?**

Students and staff will only mix in a consistent year group which will be referred to as that "bubble". That "bubble" will stay away from other people and year groups.

### **How we will help students and staff adjust?**

Teachers have explained routines and expectations. All staff will reassure children that they are safe, and we are there to keep them safe as well as teach them. We have a strong focus of personal, social, health education and encourage open discussions around worries and feelings of being in school.

Students will be reminded they can talk to any adult if they have any anxiety; they can also visit the therapists in the quiet room to talk about any issues that might be worrying them.

### **How will we ensure safe access to fresh air outside of the classroom whilst ensuring students are a safe distance at break time?**

We will have staggered break times so that each class can use the playground and grass area. The limited equipment that will be used by students will be thoroughly cleaned after use. Students will not share equipment. Students will not be allowed to play any contact sport.

Teachers will ensure classroom windows are open as much as possible to allow fresh air into the classrooms.



## Inclusion, Independence and Self-Worth

### How will classrooms be set up?

We have removed some furniture and desks will be in rows forward facing – no children will be facing another student and therefore lowering risk.

**No belongings from home can be brought to school; this includes playing cards, books, stickers, balls etc.**