



Radnor House
— SEVENOAKS —
celebrating every individual

2 September 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families keeping safe and well and your children looking forward to the new school year, albeit with a few 'new normals' to get used to. I am most certainly looking forward to what will be my second year at Radnor House; the prospect of teaching sport in person rather than over a screen is one I am very excited to return to.

As we begin the new school year, I wanted to communicate to you what can be expected on the sporting front in the Prep this year, as well as to highlight a few key pieces of information as to what the term will look like and indeed what we would like to achieve during this school year and beyond, but with the current situation, however, not all of this will be possible.

Games

One 'new normal' is the addition of further games time to the curriculum. An extra games lesson per week for every child in years 3 – 6 provides us with the opportunity to help build further understanding and confidence in our major games of hockey, football, rugby and cricket. In essence, a typical week will involve a skill development lesson and an inter-school fixture afternoon (in addition to their PE and swimming lessons). I strongly believe in sport for all, and building on my first year, it remains a personal fundamental goal to provide as many opportunities as possible for every child to take part in matches. You can therefore expect your child to be taking part in **fixtures** on the majority of **Wednesday (Years 5-6)** or **Thursday (Year 3-4)** in the afternoon. If external clubs/sessions your child may attend can be avoided on their relevant match days, this will ease time pressures when they are playing away. To note, cross country events and some major tournaments such as ISA/IAPS events are often held on other days of the week.

Whilst they are on hold for the time being, all sports fixtures are displayed in your child's calendar in **My School Portal** or via the **SOCS Sports** link in My School Portal (all new parents will be able to sign up for MSP and SOCS by Friday this week). Also, a list of fixtures for the term will be displayed in the prep courtyard. Each week team sheets will be posted on SOCS (I endeavour to do this every Friday afternoon/Monday morning for the week). Your notification email link will ask you for the password (rh7sport) to view the team sheet you child is on. These will also be displayed in the courtyard. Please do encourage your child to take responsibility for checking these at the beginning of each week, as there will only be a few instances in any one term when they are not all playing.

We expect **ALL** children to take part in matches and I hope that these are viewed as both an excellent opportunity and privilege to be representing the school. I believe that they are a most valuable experience, providing opportunities to put skills sessions into practice and make quick progress. Let's not forget match tea afterwards; possibly even more exciting for some!

When your child is not able to take part, this understandably impacts the rest of the team and required playing numbers. Of course, there will always be logistical/sickness issues that are unavoidable from time to time and I would be very grateful if you could please email me as soon as possible (shughes@radnor-sevenoaks.org) of these rare instances.

Sport Rotations

As you will have seen from Mr Butt's earlier correspondence, all girls in Years 3 – 6 will begin with hockey this term as their games focus and the boys, football. In mid-November, this will shift to netball for the girls and rugby for the boys. Alongside the season major game focus, pre-season training will take place on a Friday

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Head Fraser Halliwell

afternoon after school. This is the perfect opportunity to hit the ground running with the major game for the following season. To begin with this term, the pre-season focuses will be rugby (boys) and netball (girls). In mid-November, this focus will then shift in pre-season sessions to football (girls) and hockey (boys). We would be delighted to see every child in Years 3 – 6 attending these sessions, which we believe will play a strong role in their skill development for the term ahead.

PE and Swimming

Alongside our comprehensive games programme, every child from Transition - Year 6 will take part in both a PE and swimming lesson each week. In PE, the focus in the younger year groups involves a multi-skills approach to developing their fundamental skills, with children in Year 2 – 6 having a more sport-specific focus, rotating through 2 or 3 activities each term, which of course vary each year. These activities include cross country, gymnastics, dance, badminton, basketball, tag rugby, fitness and athletics. Swimming is also an eternally popular and indeed very important part of our curriculum, which all our students take part in weekly during the Autumn and Spring terms, in addition to the co-curricular sessions offered in the pool.

PE Kit

Every child must have at least one **fully named** set of compulsory PE kit, and with the children being outside as much as possible this term in particular, wet/cold weather layers such as skins and jackets will be vital. Also, they will need suitable pairs of footwear for cross country (which will be the first PE activity for all prep students in Year 2 – 6), astroturf use (NO Football boots or muddy trainers on the Astro) and general PE lessons. Once we return to a more normal operation with fixtures etc, all children in Years 3 – 6 will need to bring their full kit bags and boot bags in on a Monday morning, and ideally leave this in school for the full week, taking their kit bags home on a Friday afternoon for washing etc. This means that at any given point in the school week, every child should be prepared for all sporting eventualities. It is also compulsory that all children in Years 3- 6 have a properly moulded gum-shield and shin pads in school as part of their kit.

Current Implementation

From the first day of the term until further notice, it is important to note that much of the above will not be able to take place. Fixtures against other schools will not take place until further notice. All games and PE sessions will take place in single year groups and mostly where possible within class bubbles, although they may mix with the other class in their year group only. Where Year 5 and 6 have games at the same time, for example, they will therefore be taught separately (the same applies to other year groups timetabled at the same time). The vast majority of lessons will be outside, regardless of the weather, unless the rain is torrential (fingers crossed for plentiful Autumn sunshine!).

Whilst I am very aware this is a rather lengthy letter, I do hope that the information above is useful in helping you and your children prepare for the term ahead. I cannot stress the importance enough on maintaining open communication with both your children and yourselves regarding their sport. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries regarding sport in the Prep School.

I am very much looking forward to the return of the children.

Yours faithfully,

Sara Hughes
Head of Prep PE