

Knowing Every Child – Inspiring Every Mind – Achieving Every Day

Friday 26th February 2021

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES



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Preparing The School

Message from the Headteacher

I have been reviewing with other leaders how we are going to maintain a COVID-SAFE environment here at Herne when we fully reopen on March 8th. Despite some reservations about this, I am confident that between us all, we can continue with all of the arrangements that were in place during the autumn term. The longer windows for drop-off and collection, the one-way system outside and inside the school, social distancing measures in and around the school all help to keep us safe.

**HELP US
HELP YOU
STAY SAFE**

As well as these measures, Herne has implemented an enhanced approach to the staff wearing masks in communal areas and corridors. Since January 28th, each member of staff has been using Home Testing Lateral Flow kits so that we can spot a positive case quickly and these are used twice a week, whether the person is showing symptoms or is asymptomatic. We are also keeping a record when staff have received the first vaccination, which currently stands at 5 people as of today. The school now has 8 lap blankets in every classroom due to the generosity

of our community, which helps us to keep the children warmer if they are sat near to open doors or windows, which are left open to improve ventilation within the classrooms. These additional measures will help to reduce the transmission of the virus.

In the case of the few instances of a positive case here at the school, this has been tracked to a community contact rather than an outbreak within the school itself. ***We will keep in place the three tiers of bubbles:***

- **Upper & Lower School Bubbles**, where there will be very little crossing between these two parts of the school
- **Year Group Bubbles**, which are in use during wraparound care before and after school
- **Class Bubbles** for the majority of the school day

Once our latest Risk Assessment has been updated, this will be posted on our website before the end of next week so that parents and carers can see what we have put in place for the children and staff. Just in case you missed our Interim Flyer on Tuesday this week, here is the link to the news item which included Allyson Crew at the infant school and the Crabtree family:

<https://youtu.be/2fyUOmGXIHQ>

If you would like to contact me, you can email me as always on: headteacher@hernejunior.com Apologies in advance if you don't get a swift reply, but I will reply! I am also in the school most of the time next week, so if you'd like to call me to discuss anything about the full reopening of the school, please just give me a call. ☺

Stay Safe. Best Wishes & Good luck! Tony Markham (Headteacher).

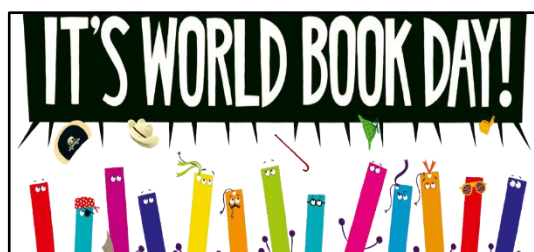
Critical Key Workers Classes Closing Early on FRIDAY 5th March

We sent out a text earlier this week to alert Critical Keyworkers to the fact that we will need to **close the school from 12.00 next Friday, 5th March**. This is to allow us to reinstate the desktops into classrooms and other parts of our IT infrastructure in order to be fully operational on Monday 8th March. Children can be collected between 12.00 and 12.30. If you need to come earlier, that won't be an issue. Thank you for your understanding about this.



World Book Day – Thursday 4th March 2021

We think it would be fun for the children next week if they would make a prop or dress up as a favourite character on World Book Day, even though the majority of the children will be at home. The Author & Illustrator Academy videos are now live! These include all of the brilliant £1 book authors and illustrators, with lots of exciting challenges and activities to make reading even more fun and interactive. Check this out here: <https://www.worldbookday.com/2020/09/world-book-day-2021-announcements/>



Our English Team teachers from across each year group have put together a special video which will be posted out to the children on Google Classroom on Thursday, which the children just won't want to miss!!

Just tune in next Thursday and join in the READING FUN! ☺

Returning Equipment – Monday 8th March

We are immensely proud that we managed to support over 50 children throughout this latest Lockdown with desktops, laptops and iPads in order to enable them to access the Home Learning. Many donations have been coming into the school to support this work and we are very grateful for this generosity.

If you have had the benefit of one of these machines at home, can you please return this equipment during the first couple of days back to school from Monday 8th March. We will need to re-set the machines on the school's network and prepare them for future loans if a class bubble has to be closed anytime in the future. Thank you.



Allotment, Well-being Garden and Woodland Regeneration Donations



A big 'THANK YOU' to five of our East Hampshire District Councillors Matthew Gass, David McKinney, Jamie Matthews, Julie Butler and Ben Bentley for their very generous donation of £2377.75 given through the Councillor Community Grant Scheme. This money is going to be mainly spent on building materials for our new allotment. The money will help with a vast selection of trees and shrubs to regenerate and expand our woodland area. Due to ash dieback, we have lost almost a third of our trees in our woodland site, so this money will mean that we can now replace these.

A special thank you also to Antony Dancer at **A.D. Landscapes** (one of our parents) who has donated wood bark for us to use in our grounds.

A Reminder of Key Points for March 8th

In order to prepare for the full return of the children on Monday 8th March, here are some key points to keep in mind for next week:

- Home Learning will continue with full support from teachers and support staff
- Critical Keyworker groups will continue but will not be expanded, as our staffing deployment needs to prioritise Home Learning for the huge majority of children
- All measures in place prior to Christmas will be re-instated
- Additional measures for mask wearing will be highlighted for staff, parents/carers and visitors
- Children will not be required to wear masks
- All staff now take Lateral Flow tests TWICE a week to track any potential cases of COVID-19 and this has been in place since January
- Hygiene measures of HANDS-FACE-SPACE must continue with the same vigilance as always
- School uniform will be required from Monday March 8th
- Breakfast Club from 7.30am (£4 a session to include breakfast) will start from 8th March
- Twilight Club from 3.30 until the slightly earlier time of 5pm (£7, including a snack) will also start on 8th March. *NB: We will review this club towards the end of March in order to extend to 6pm after Easter*
- The government's expectation is that ALL children will return to school from Monday 8th March

INSET Days for Next Academic Year 2021-2022

All of the In-Service Training Days, when the school will be closed to children, have been agreed between Herne and Petersfield Infants School as follows:

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Friday 3rd September 2021

Friday 22nd October 2021

Tuesday 4th January 2021

Monday 6th June 2022

