

Knowing Every Child – Inspiring Every Mind – Achieving Every Day

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020



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## Helping Your Child With Their Learning

### Message from the Headteacher

There is no doubt in my mind that many children have been trying to adjust, with varying success, to life in these unprecedented times. Our main aim here at Herne is to ensure each child has every bit of support to make sure they get right back on track with their learning. We will be training two new Emotional Literacy Support Assistants this term and are currently assessing exactly where the children are with their reading ages and their maths abilities. More news about this will follow nearer half-term. In the meantime, please look at the remaining sections of this Flyer to see where you can help your child with our support and some detailed information on keeping yourself and your family safe.

Keep Safe. Best wishes. Tony Markham (Headteacher)

## DOODLE MATHS AND DOODLE ENGLISH: Both for 12 months for £12.



Hopefully all families have received a letter today regarding our special DoodleMaths and DoodleEnglish offer for our parents. Both computer programs/apps are usually £55 each per year (£110), but we can sell you both products for £12, **saving you £98!** This special offer is only open for two weeks! The closing date to sign up is **16<sup>th</sup> October**. Please read the letter for more details. This is a fantastic deal and just 10 minutes a day of 'doodling' (English and Maths) has really shown to make a significant impact on children's progress. Quite a few of the staff use these apps with their own children at home and would strongly recommend them to all parents. 😊

## Year 3 Going Home

Just a reminder that if Year 3 parents would like to meet their child instead of picking them up from the classroom doors, please email us with a choice of leaving time of either **3.30 or 3.35**, then we'll start this arrangement from this **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October**. Please email [admin@hernejunior.com](mailto:admin@hernejunior.com) with your child's name, class and the chosen time of either 3.30 **OR** 3.35. We suggest you meet somewhere on our site or near one of the school gates. This will be up to you and the confidence of your child. 😊 You are more than welcome to still collect the children from the class door if you prefer.



## Twilight Club & B4 Club (Formally Breakfast Club)

Due to our reduced prices this half-term, we are making a slight loss on these clubs. This is because we need to keep staffing levels high for the safety of the children. **After half-term**, we are intending to extend the hours of this wrap-around care for these clubs with prices being held as low as we can, at last year's pre-Lockdown rates:

**FROM NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**B4 Club: 7.15 to 8.30 £4 per session** (no food can be provided at this time)

**Twilight Club: 3.30 – 5.00 £7 OR 3.30 – 6.00 £10** (A snack & a drink will be included)

We hope that this will help working parents and support the broader economic recovery. All payments will be done by invoicing parents on a monthly basis.



## Missing Library and Link Books

We still have over 280 library books (over £1000 worth) that have not been returned since the school went into Lockdown in March. We would really appreciate every family having a good search at home for any school library books. We will appreciate your support with this. Thank you.

## DROP OFF TIME 8.15 – 8.40am

Just a polite reminder that the drop-off window for children is 8.15 – 8.40am. We are still having a significant amount of children arriving between 8.40 – 8.55am, which means they are missing a lot of their morning work in class. This morning work is an effective way for us to help the children to catch-up with their learning and identify specific gaps in their knowledge and skills. We really appreciate your support with this and the children will thank you forever! 😊



## NHS Covid-19 App – Track and Trace

As of the 24<sup>th</sup> September, there is now a new legal requirement for certain venues to display official NHS QR code posters to support the NHS COVID-19 app which was launched last weekend. This is part of the national coronavirus testing and contact tracing programme. The NHS COVID-19 app provides people with information about the risk level for coronavirus in their local area, alert them if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, and it has a built-in QR scanner which people who download the app will use to easily and securely 'check-in' at venues.

**This applies to the following venues:**

- Hospitality
- Leisure and tourism
- Close contact services
- Places of worship; and
- Local authority venues

Parents have asked if they need to scan the Herne QR code and the simple answer is *YES if you want to*. It is aimed at visitors to the school and can be used by adults dropping off children at the school on a more ad-hoc basis. If you do the school run every day, then it is less essential, as you know that you are here on a daily basis.



These links give further information on the NHS COVID-19 app and QR code posters:

- [Introducing the app explainer pack](#)
- [Information and resources for creating and displaying your QR code poster](#)

## What If I Get A NHS Notification to Self-Isolate?

Herne has put together a 16-slide PowerPoint presentation which is on our 'COVID' section of our website. This tries to explain in a question and answer format, what you should do if you are told to isolate. It also includes this link to the NHS:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/nhs-test-and-trace-if-youve-been-in-contact-with-a-person-who-has-coronavirus/>

## Half-Term Holiday Club



With East Hants virus cases on the slight increase (+13 cases in East Hants from last week), sadly, Herne will not be offering a holiday club this half-term. We have some minor building work taking place within the school over the week and we are also having 200 tables fitted with brand new tops with the correct colours in all of our Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 classrooms (Year 6 are already sorted). By keeping children and staff out of the school and at home, this gives our cleaning team a chance to deep clean the Hall and other classrooms, ensuring that we all keep safe for next half-term.

## Green School Chairs

As a result of all of the new furniture that was bought to keep the children safe (and makes our school look much smarter), we have several green chairs which parents may be interested in making a donation of £5 per chair or two chairs for £8. If you're interested in these chairs, just email [admin@hernejunior.com](mailto:admin@hernejunior.com) and we'll make sure the money is spent on the children to provide them with extra equipment at breaktimes to keep them busy (skipping ropes, tennis balls etc.) ☺ We'll take orders on a First-Come, First-Served basis.



## Keeping Up With Herne's Changes to Keep Covid-19 Secure

Please look in on our 'COVID' section of our website from next week, as we will be summarising all of the tweaks and updates to our Risk Assessments since the full return to school. If parents ever have any questions about why we do things in a slightly different way at the moment, please do get in touch or speak to Mr Markham, Mr Castle or Mrs Marshall when they are on duty outside. We'd be more than happy to talk to you about our thinking about how we are trying to keep everyone safe and secure.

## Changes to Marking the Children's Books



There has always been a debate in primary schools about the extent to which teachers spend an inordinate amount of time marking and whether this all actually impacts on the children's progress. With the recent development of the pandemic, senior leaders and governors agreed that a huge risk to staff was where transmission of the virus could occur between households if the virus was present on children's books. Each classroom has the potential to have books touched by the children from at least 30 households (and some classes have 31 children).

It is currently our policy that teachers are discouraged from taking books home to mark. With only so many hours in the day and teachers having extended 'on duty' hours from 8.15 through to 3.45 with very little time in the way of breaks, there is a reduction in time to mark books. There are many preparation tasks for lessons in school and we have teachers working hard on online materials for the possibility of class bubbles going into a lockdown.

Teachers are focussing on one or two significant pieces of maths and writing tasks each week, thoroughly feeding back to the children from this work, in order to have the biggest impact on their learning. This isn't the only marking they are doing, but just turning up to our educational 'frontline' and taking risks around the potential for catching the virus, we strongly believe that a better balance needs to be struck between the physical work of teaching and the 'out of hours' marking. It also is a huge priority to us that teachers and LSAs spend quality time in class talking to the children and supporting the children's mental well-being.

## Changes to Our Approach to Homework

Homework is now a blend between digital tasks (TT Rockstars and Spelling Shed for example) and book-based tasks. These book-based tasks are marked together in dedicated sessions in class. It is vital that the children keep up with this homework, especially if they struggled with Home Learning during the summer term. It also gets them into good habits for their future education where homework is a fact of life as they get older. We've made a decision for teachers to not mark homework books directly due to infection risks, as these books posed the biggest risk as they may have been in contact with a range of people outside of the school. At this stage, teachers and LSAs spend time during the school day to review and feedback on the children's efforts.



We understand that we need to have greater consistency across all of the classes for awarding Housepoints and recognition of the great work many of the children do outside of school. This is an agenda for our Leadership Team next week.

## Open School Arrangements



If you know of brand new parents in the area who are keen to see what the local schools are like before sending their child to school at the age of 5, then please spread the word that, in common with our Petersfield Infant School colleagues, we have now arranged slots each week where up to five individuals can book to have a look around our school both inside and outside. This helps us to adhere to the 'Rule of 6'. **Please encourage them to contact our office to book a slot.**

## Data Sheets

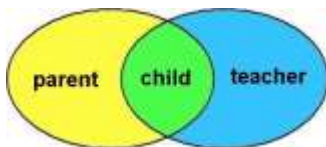
Your child will have brought home a Data Sheet earlier this week. This sheet shows all the contact information we hold for you. For all sorts of reasons, it's important that we have reliable contact numbers for you and any other carers for your child, especially in the case of an emergency or a class bubble lockdown. Please can you check the details and return it to school as soon as possible and certainly before half-term? Thank You.

## School Lunches

There will be a small increase in the price of school lunches from 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020. The new price will be £2.50 per day. We have been working hard with our colleagues in the kitchen to make sure meals are delivered on time for the multiple lunchtime slots and we've been trying to ensure that hot meals are still hot when they arrive. Due to the increasingly wintery weather, we worked on an internal route for delivering meals today. Our huge thanks to all of the staff in the kitchen who have a thankless task to make this provision work. Trust us, it's a huge task to individually pack every single meal for the children, including making sure that special diets are adhered to. Well done to the kitchen staff and our office team for this. 😊



## Home-School Agreements



In normal times, parents would have received a Home-School Agreement as their child entered the school. However, due to the disruption last term, there was a delay. Next week every child will receive a copy of this agreement, which now includes some updates on our expectations for Home Learning in the event of a local or national lockdown. There is a detailed version for new Year 3 families and the Annual Renewal version for Years 4, 5 and 6.

## Transfer to Secondary School in 2021

This is just a reminder to **Year 6 parents and carers** to complete their application for their child's year 7 place by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. If you are unsure about what to do, please get in touch with us for advice or go to [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk) and click on 'Education and Learning' where a box at the top takes you to 'Applying for a School Place'.



## Lost Property

When the weather permits, we will be putting outside any lost property that was left at the school from the summer term. Where possible, anything unclaimed will be recycled, but in many ways it will be better if the uniform, coats, PE kits go back to their rightful owners. We will put this out on the upper playground on a number of tables in order to allow for social distancing.

## Coats Needed in School

Please make sure your child brings a coat to school, as we have found a small number of children without a coat.

## Parent Governor – Last Call for Applications



We are delighted to say that we already have two applications. If you think you would be interested and would like to talk to our Chair of Governors about the role, please contact us here in the school office. The deadline for applications is **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

