

Knowing Every Child – Inspiring Every Mind – Achieving Every Day

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES**



Website: [www.hernejunior.com](http://www.hernejunior.com)

Email: [admin@hernejunior.com](mailto:admin@hernejunior.com)

Twitter: [@HerneJunior](https://twitter.com/HerneJunior)

Telephone: 01730 263746

## How We Will Improve Your Child's Learning

### Message from the Headteacher

Many stories in the media have talked about children having gaps in their learning and catching up with lost knowledge. Something we've noticed is that many children continued to successfully learn throughout Lockdown as a result of the partnership between our staff and you, as parents and carers. Your support (and patience) has proved to be critical in helping to minimise the impact of the disruption to the children's learning, so thank you for that. 😊



We are monitoring how well every child has adjusted to life back at school. We've been assessing where they might have extra support to make sure they are on-track to leave our school with the best outcomes possible. Here are just some of the things we've started or will be putting in place this year:

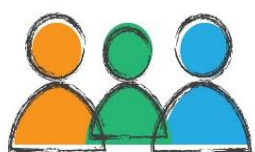
- Many children who need help with their reading are already coming into school from 8am in the morning for extra help
- We are running special Year 5 reading groups, to help with the children's fluency, comprehension and passion for reading
- Groups of children are about to start 'Lift Off' - a new intervention on iPads from the makers of 'Doodle Maths'
- With children's well-being in mind, we now have three staff who are trained ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) who are working with specific children across the school. In addition, we have created Nurture Assistants to help too
- Mrs Hepworth has nearly completed **Forest School** training and, as a part of her course, she will be running her first trial club after half-term. This will promote using the outdoors to enhance learning and well-being
- We are looking at a week of reading fun at the end of August when some children will be invited in during the holidays to boost their confidence for the coming academic year
- The Governing Body has voted unanimously in March to reduce the class sizes for the current Year 5 cohort when they move into Year 6 in September. Instead of four classes, there will be five classes and we are currently in the process of recruiting an extra teacher to make this happen.
- I have also recommended to the governors that we consider this same measure for current Year 4 when they move into Year 6 in 2022, if this cohort still need to accelerate their learning. This will be dependent on funding and how well they progress next academic year.

If you would like to contact me, you can email me as always on: [headteacher@hernejunior.com](mailto:headteacher@hernejunior.com) or why not join us for one of our Zoom meetings when we re-start our Parents in Partnership meetings later this term.

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

### Keeping Children Safe Online

I wrote to all Year 6 parents this week about some troubling social media groups that their children may have joined, especially during the last Lockdown. Some messages between children have been very inappropriate and we are dealing with these matters as part of our safeguarding procedures. Where we have concerns, we will record this on our Child Protection Online Management System (CPOMS). The main message was to say to parents and carers that you should be aware of what your child is doing online with their tablets or smartphones. In many cases, children have been added to groups without their permission because their phone number is known by other people. Please take care and if you need some help with managing this, please look at this link from the government's **National Crime Agency**: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>



Parents in Partnership

### Parents in Partnership Meetings on Zoom

We are bringing back our Parents in Partnership meetings, giving parents a chance to 'meet' senior leaders to discuss a range of the things that we do. We will use 'Zoom' to invite parents to this meeting and have scheduled two meetings before the end of the summer term. Here is the first meeting invite scheduled for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May at midday. This means that if you are at work, you could still join us in your lunch break if you wished to do so. 😊 Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85461148473?pwd=ZFJQZ3ZTOXdGV1FuaElwdzq5cjV3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 854 6114 8473

Passcode: H98GAp

## Compiling Classes for September 2021

Herne will be reviewing our classes for September, on the basis that the children in each class, including Year 3, have been together for the last two years (unless they are new to the school from places other than Petersfield Infants). It is always our aim to look at a range of criteria to make sure we have a good balance within each class along these lines:

- ✓ Balance of specific pupil groups (i.e. Pupil Premium, Free School Meals, English as Additional Language etc.)
- ✓ Balance of children who have made good progress/poor progress
- ✓ Balance of Social/Emotional needs
- ✓ Balance of Special Needs
- ✓ Balance of Ages
- ✓ Balance of Ability
- ✓ Balance of Maturity
- ✓ Balance of Girls/Boys



Whilst taking these criteria into account, staff also look closely at friendship groups. However, in normal times, children will be able to meet up with friends from other classes at break and lunchtimes and this gives them the chance to socialise at appropriate moments in the day, as part of their well-being. We are hopeful that whole year groups may once again be able to mix across current year group bubbles once we get to the autumn term.

One aspect that is hard to satisfy are any requests from parents or carers who may express a view as to where their child is placed either with another child and, on the odd occasion, a request that their child is split from a particular child in their current class. As you can imagine, we have so many variables to balance, that a request purely based on friendship is hard to consider, not least because many people may cite the pandemic as a good reason to keep friends together. We would make a plea that, unless there is an exceptional reason to do so, we would urge you to trust us to make the best judgements we can for the new classes based on what we know of the children in school. Thank you for your anticipated support with this.

## Summer Term Menu for Lunchtimes

We have been talking to our colleagues at HC3s, who provide the meals from the kitchen, and have agreed on a new summer menu with three choices. These meals should be easier to eat outside, when we hope the children will enjoy their lunch as a picnic in the warmer summer weather. As a reminder, can you please make sure that there are not nuts in your child's packed lunches in any of the snacks, as there are several children with allergies to nuts in our school. Thank you.

## Clubs Return from Today 😊

Rocksteady has started back from today and there are now school football clubs for both boys and girls in Years 5 and 6. Our friends at CM Sports will be running the following:



- Tuesday (3.40 – 4.40) – Year 3 Netball (CM Sports)**
- Wednesday (3.40 – 4.40) – Year 5 Dance (CM Sports)**
- Wednesday (3.40 – 4.40) – Year 4 Football (CM Sports)**

All these clubs will run throughout the remaining 11 weeks till the Summer Holidays. All the clubs will be based outside. To book your child's place go to the CM Sports website or follow this link: <https://cmsports.schoolipal.co.uk/clubs/school-clubs>

## Football or Basketballs From Home Brought Into School

We would like to clarify that we cannot allow other balls to come into the school from the children's homes for two reasons:

- First of all, many of these balls, especially footballs, are too hard to play with whilst the children remain in their assigned areas in their Class bubbles. We have had some injuries to children from these balls from home.
- Secondly, there is a small chance of the risk of transmission of COVID-19 from the outside community if these items come into the school.

We are constantly renewing the softer balls that we allocate to classes and when we can guarantee closer supervision, some of the older children are allowed one of the school's footballs to use. We are putting another order in today, as we know that the children often need things to do during their breaktimes.



## Parents' Evening

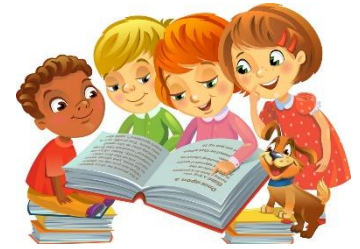
For Those parents who have not used our new virtual parents' evening package (**School Cloud**), it is worth noting that the software has an inbuilt timer to ensure that the teachers do not run beyond their allocated times with their appointments. What this means is that after the allotted 12-minute slot, the appointment automatically ends, so please don't think the teacher is cutting you off. Both teacher and parent can see this timer on their screen as it counts down towards the next appointment.

If the appointment ends and leaves you hanging on an item of unfinished discussion, please just email in to [admin@hernejunior.com](mailto:admin@hernejunior.com) and we can resolve this for you.

## Recommended Series Reading Lists – Repeat From Last Week

As parents and carers know, we take the view that being able to read is such a crucial skill to enable your child to do well throughout their lives. As such, we have repeated the links from last week's Flyer below and have also provided details about Petersfield Library, so that you have the chance to access books now that public libraries are re-opened. 😊

- Year 3 <https://www.hernejunior.com/site/data/files/documents/3ACEDFB99FF270805F2B7A7637A8B9C4.pdf>
- Year 4 <https://www.hernejunior.com/site/data/files/documents/D4283986315159F8F4DD395F7446396A.pdf>
- Year 5 <https://www.hernejunior.com/site/data/files/documents/D2D561DA5F2042F2C862D7B7C9AF9AE9.pdf>
- Year 6 <https://www.hernejunior.com/site/data/files/documents/0A117288ADA96C93901DFDA75DA5DC0C.pdf>



We have updated our recommended series lists again for parents, which now includes over 125 series across the four year groups. We often get parents saying that they are struggling to find books to engage their children with reading, so these documents are a wonderful place to start. Children do not have to stick to their year group. With confident readers (with parental approval) you are welcome to look at some of the higher year groups and less confident readers to explore younger year groups than their own; they are just a rough guide to the content and/or difficulty. Our own library at Herne includes all of the listed series, so if there is a particular book your child seems interested in, please let your child's class teacher know and we can add it to their class selection. A series of books make wonderful birthday presents and The Works [www.theworks.co.uk](http://www.theworks.co.uk), Books4people [www.books4people.co.uk](http://www.books4people.co.uk) Books2door [www.books2door.com](http://www.books2door.com) are just some of the places that offer very good prices for these book series.

**Please remember that at Herne, our expectation is that every children reads a minimum of 10 minutes, 5 times a week.** We often find that the vast majority of children (not including children with a specific special educational need) who are struggling with their reading are not meeting this minimum expectation. Another important factor to note is that **even children in Years 5 and 6 really should be reading to an adult for at least some of their reading sessions in a week**, so the adult can ask the children questions about the text and to give the child someone to ask if they are unsure regarding more challenging vocabulary (even if that means the parent has to quickly Google the word on their phone! 😊) Like we always say at Herne – **WE CAN'T IMPROVE A CHILD'S READING WITHOUT YOUR HELP!** Together we can give them the gift of being a fluent reader (with strong comprehension skills) that will set them up as a life-long learner.

### Petersfield Library

#### Covid-19 update

In line with the Government's COVID-19 roadmap, we are pleased to confirm that Hampshire Libraries are re-opening for browsing from Monday 12 April.

See further details about using and visiting our libraries

Open						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
☒	10am to 5pm	10am to 5pm	10am to 1:30pm	10am to 5pm	10am to 4pm	☒

Closed on public holidays

### Hampshire Libraries

#### Address

27 The Square  
Petersfield  
GU32 3HH  
0300 555 1387



### Special COVID-19 Phone Line for Weekends & Bank Holidays

As a reminder, our COVID-19 notification number is **07471 808285** and can be used at weekends or during holiday periods.

If you need to contact us about a positive case during the school week, just call our usual number, in confidence: **01730 263746**.

**DON'T FORGET – This Coming Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May is a BANK HOLIDAY and all schools will be closed!**

**HANDS**

**FACE**

**SPACE**

**FRESH AIR**