

Friday 17th September 2021



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Getting Involved With Your School

Message from the Headteacher

As the last two weeks have gone by, I have a sense of many things moving back to some normality from before the pandemic. In today's Flyer there are a couple of opportunities to enable parents to be more involved with our school as we recover from all of the disruption to the children's education.



Whether it is to be part of our strategic direction on our governing body or as a keen supporter to help organise events for the children and raise money for their education, either way we'd love to welcome you on board! I have also highlighted some details for linking up with your child's teacher or popping in to see your child's books. Parents and carers are the bedrock of all of the pupils here at Herne. You are after all, their first educators and your perspective on how we can make their time at Herne fruitful and fun is so important.

If you would like to contact me, you can email on: headteacher@hernejunior.com

Stay Safe & Best Wishes - Tony Markham

Parent Governor Applications

As mentioned last week, there is a vacancy for a parent or carer to join our governing body.

If you think you would be interested about the role and would like to talk to Mr Markham or our

Chair of Governors, Mary Fair, then please contact us here in the school office. Please email admin@hernejunior.com for an application form or pick one up next time you pop in. The deadline for applications is **Monday 18th October 2021**.

If we receive more than one application, this would then trigger an election at the beginning of November. Our aim is to greet our new parent governor in time for our Full Governing Body meeting towards the end of that month.



Open School

In November, we are going to re-start something that we call **OPEN SCHOOL**. This is something we have done for many years whereby parents and carers can pop into their child's classroom to look at what their child has been doing in their books. It also gives



you a chance to see their classrooms in more detail. It's not always the case that the class teacher will be there, so if there are matters that you'd like to raise with them, that is best done at a different time. However, senior leaders are usually around at these times. These opportunities start at 3.45pm and continue to 5.30pm to allow for working parents to come along. The first session will take place on Thursday November 4th and consequent sessions fall on the first Thursday of every month where this is a normal school day.

Reading Reading Reading...

We love our reading at Herne, so our expectation is that children should read at least 5 times a week for a minimum of approximately 10 minutes (and get this written into their School-Home Link book). If children manage to do this they will be awarded a **GOLD certificate** at the end of the term. However, if they manage to read **6 times a week** they will receive the **PLATINUM certificate** and be invited to a special year group treat at the end of each term. For Year 4 to Year 6, the count started from Monday 13th September but we have given Year 3 an extra week to get organised so the count for you will start next Monday. **The count does include Half-term so don't forget to keep reading over this holiday week.** ☺



Changing Link and Library books

We always endeavour to give children regular time to change link and library books, however you are always welcome to put a note in the School-Home Link book that your child is ready to change them. We want to work together to always ensure that your child has reading materials at home to engage and challenge them ☺. Year 3 are starting to get their Rapid Read logins for home and all the children will have them by the end of next week. The children will have an allocation of books that matches their book band level, but if you need us to release more books, just pop a note in the School-Home Link book (our lovely LSAs will be checking the accounts each Tuesday so if we see that the allocation has been read we will release more books on this day anyway).



School Photos Tuesday 21st September

Next Tuesday, there will be Individual photos for all of the children, but please note that there will be no sibling photos this year.

Children in Years 3 and 6 will need to bring a shirt and jumper/cardigan as well as attending in their PE kit. Thank you.

House Captain Speeches

Many children have been preparing speeches for the House Captain elections next week. As a courtesy, we have found out in the past that parents and carers appreciate knowing this, as sometimes your child may have kept this to themselves. In this way, some of you may want to give your child a chance to rehearse their key messages to their peers. We love to involve our children in leadership roles in the school and there will soon be Sports Captains selected and School Councillors to vote in. Good luck to all of those involved!

School Clubs

Usually we would have published our clubs list by this time of year with an array of different activities for the children like gymnastics, karate and other clubs. However, very soon our hall will soon be completely out of action at the end of this month due to our window and door refurbishment programme. We are hoping to move this forward during this term so that some clubs can run over lunchtimes, but space is a bit of an issue now that we have split upper and lower school lunchtimes. Watch this space as we endeavour to improve this situation and in the meantime, we can only apologise for this situation, which is not of our making.

Reminder of Drop-off and Collection Times

As we have tweaked the times for dropping off and collection, we thought we'd just remind parents of the times we are now operating by as of next week, especially as Year 3 are now more settled into their routines:

Drop-Off ALL CHILDREN: 8.25 – 8.40

Collection Years 3 & 4: 3.25 – 3.40
Years 5 & 6 all leave at 3.30

If you find that the time you are collecting is rather busy, why not try a slightly different time when it could be quieter?

These times will remain the same until the 4th October, after which we will be returning to our usual finishing time of 3.30 FOR ALL PUPILS where children will be dismissed from their class and parents can meet them on the playground. The top path will then remain clear. More details will follow next week.

End of Day – Please Leave!

We have noticed that quite a few children are continuing to hang around after school on the outdoor gym and in and around the playgrounds or field. Please can you emphasise to your children to leave our site as quickly as possible at the end of the school day? During this afternoon's assembly, we made sure the children all know the rule that they must come to the office if they can't find the person they are meeting. Thank you for your help with this matter.

Window and Door Refurbishment

An extensive 3-month programme of replacement of most of our windows and doors this term will mean that our school will be much more energy efficient in the future. As you can imagine, this is going to need careful management with so many people on site. The parking on our school site is only for staff and for the few parents who have special permission to park in our grounds. Those people are given permits. Can we please ask everyone else to park off-site or use the Park & Stride scheme (which is FREE) in order to reduce the congestion at the end of the day.

Park & Stride Scheme: Permits



We have now renewed the parking permits for parents and carers to use to park in the Love Lane car park near the football club and in the Festival Hall car park. This permit is **FREE** and gives parents time to walk from the car park to the school and back. There are two types of permit: one for junior school parents only and another for parents who have a child at the infant school. This joint permit allows parents a little extra time for parking due to the pick-up from two schools. We are grateful to East Hants District Council for supporting this scheme and it really helps to keep the traffic from the school's local roads, as well as the added health benefits that come with walking to school.

Butser Hill Challenge 2021 – This Sunday!

The Butser Hill Challenge will take place this Sunday 19th September, at Butser Hill, Queen Elizabeth Country Park. This is the 40th Anniversary. We have 12 Herne runners already entered, however it would be great to see a few more. We know some people reported that last week's link didn't work, so we have now double-checked this and this link definitely works. You can enter directly online at <https://www.eventrac.co.uk/e/butser-hill-challenge-4062> Be sure to add Herne Junior School name so that the organisers know your child is running for our school. You can enter up until the 18th September but no entries will be allowed on the day.

There is a charge of £7 for each Junior entrant. This goes towards the cost of putting on the event. Mr Markham will be there from 9am onwards to greet parents and children, and give them their race numbers, so look out for the Herne Junior School banner – see the picture (you know he likes his flags!!) Please remember to wear your Herne Junior school PE tee-shirts.



FREE SCHOOL MEAL ENTITLEMENT AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING

If your child is entitled to free school meals we ask that you register them for this, even if they do not want to have a school meal, as it means the school qualifies for additional funding. This additional money is called 'Pupil Premium' funding and currently equates to **£1,345** for each eligible child. With school budgets under pressure, it is therefore vital that we ensure that we get all money to which we are entitled, so that we can give all our children the best support possible. You can go to this government website to see if you are eligible: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>



Armed Service children:

Please can Armed Service parents (any parent who has been in the armed forces within the last six years) register their child by informing the school office. By doing this, the school will be able to claim **£310** a year for each child registered as having a Service parent. If a couple are divorced and the child/children are now living with their mother and a partner not in the services, as long as the birth parent is still in the services, then the child can still be registered as a service child. Also, if a mother and her children are living with someone who is in the services, even if they are not married, the children can also be registered as service children. Mrs Elliot-Smith has recently been appointed as our Service Child link teacher and has some exciting plans regarding a project for the children (Mrs Elliot-Smith's husband is in the Navy and he is currently away on service).



Let's Keep Handwashing a High Priority

As we witness a European-wide rise in infections of Covid-19, we have once again brought handwashing right to the top of our priority list for the children and staff. We found this lovely child-friendly reminder for the children and have given an A3 poster of this to each teacher to talk to the children about and display in EVERY CLASSROOM.

Why not go through this with your child at home? If you'd like a physical copy of this, we have a number of them available in our foyer.

We particularly love step number 3!

Morrisons – 'Good to Grow'

If you or any friends or relatives ever shop in Morrisons, they are currently running a **FREE** gardening equipment for schools initiative called 'Good to Grow'. Go to the Morrison's app and register your name. In the It's Good to Grow section click on the **manage tokens** to register which school you wish tokens to go to virtually. Be careful that the choose the correct school as there are several schools nationally with Herne in their name. You want Herne Junior School, Love Lane, GU31 4BP – sadly, you cannot change the school if you get it wrong.



Support Our Children - New Parent / Carer Group

As mentioned in the first part of this Flyer, we are keen to re-start a parent/carer group to support our school. This has been called Friends of Herne in the past, but we'd love to kick-start this group afresh with perhaps a new name for the group. If you'd like to get involved with this, please contact Mr Markham on headteacher@hernejunior.com in confidence. Don't worry, he won't commit you to anything against your wishes!

Parents Evenings

We have some dates for weeks when you will be able to make an appointment online to meet with your child's teacher by video call. The lower school week will be in the week beginning 11th October and the upper school will be in the following week. More details for how to book will be coming very soon. ☺

COMMUNITY MESSAGES

Cub Scout Success!

1st Sheet Cubs entered 2 teams (12 Cubs in total) into the 14th Supreme Box Kart Championship last week. They were new to the competition and up against 30 teams from as far away as Scotland! **Broadlands Cubs went and won!** Adhurst Cubs did amazingly too, and even better cheered Broadlands through the knock out stages to their win. 9 of the Cubs attend Herne. All have medals and the winners came home with trophies. Adhurst's Herne entrants were Christopher Proctor (Yr 5), Oliver Pike, Liam (Keefe-Draga) and Georgia Meredith (all Yr 4). Broadlands Cubs were Noah and Masie Smith, Yr 5. Harry Forster Yr 5. Elliott (Yr 4), Daniel (Yr 6).

Butser Home Start – Any Volunteers??? More details will follow next week...

Please see their website for details of this charity: <https://homestart-butser.org.uk/>