

Knowing Every Child – Inspiring Every Mind – Achieving Every Day

Friday 3rd July 2020



Website: www.hernejunior.com

Email: admin@hernejunior.com

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

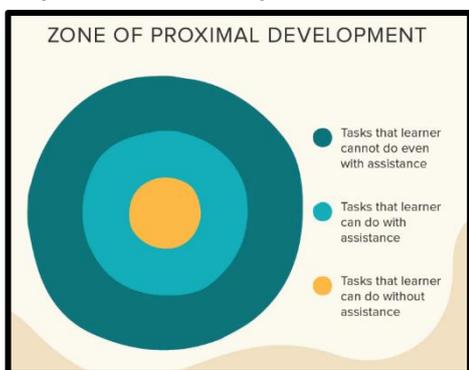
Telephone: 01730 263746

Return to School in September

Message from the Headteacher

The government published its latest guidance to all schools in England yesterday. In their guidance, they stated that “Returning to school is vital for children’s education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children’s cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children’s future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all pupils can return to school sooner rather than later.”

This week we opened up 15 of our 16 classrooms in school. As we welcomed back even more children this week into our extra Key Worker group and the first block of children in Year 5, our staff have been pleased to see that many children have been able to make progress in their learning at home.



The thanks for our home learning provision from many parents has been extremely welcome, but we all take our hat off to the hundreds of parents who have been working so effectively with your children at home. Your commitment to your child’s education has never been in doubt, but clearly many of you have turned into amazing teachers!

We have several systems in place ready to go in September which will help us to identify any gaps in maths and reading. We will be using a computer-based program called Star Assessment for the third year running. This sets the children questions which get progressively more difficult to find out the limit of their knowledge. It works on a principle called ‘the zone of proximal development’ developed by a Russian psychologist called Lev Vygotsky nearly 100 years ago. See feature on page 2.

The following are the intentions of the Department for Education and this is how it is likely to affect Herne:

- It is planned that every child in every year group will return to school **on Monday 7th September**
- There will be no social distancing for children in school, as there will be 30 to 31 pupils in a classroom
- Covid-19 risk assessments will be enhanced and further measures, including additional hygiene regimes, will be put in place to keep everyone safe
- Children will be put in groups (or bubbles) with no contact between groups. Bubbles are likely to be whole year groups, but could be individual classes (we have yet to decide the best arrangement at this stage)
- Classrooms will have forward facing desks
- Staff will maintain distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible
- Staggered starts and finishes will be put in place due to our large population of pupils (there will be 483 pupils in September)
- It will be compulsory for all pupils who are well to attend school and we will return to wearing school uniform
- We are looking at plans to reinstate Breakfast and Twilight Clubs from mid-September

With my home town of Leicester going into a local Lockdown this week, it raises the question: “What if there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 at Herne?” The government has promised to have a NHS Test & Trace process fully operational and testing will be put in place to respond to suspected cases quickly. We had a person this week who was tested in the morning and had their result by the evening – it was negative. Schools have been told that one case would close a bubble or group down and all members of that bubble would need to self-isolate for the required period, currently 14 days. In extreme situations, the whole school may have to close for a short while. Back-up Home Learning provision will be put in place to enable continuity of learning for any year groups unduly affected by a partial isolation period or a local Lockdown.

As you can imagine, this extensive guidance was only published yesterday, so it will take us a little while to go through this in order to put in place extra detailed plans ready for a September start. We will publish more details to parents later in July.

If you’d like to contact me personally about anything that may be worrying you about your child’s education, please email me on headteacher@hernejunior.com or call me at the school on 01730 263746. I’m now in school most days.

Stay Safe. Tony Markham. Headteacher

Zone of Proximal Development

As children have returned with a mixture of experiences at home over the last few months, we have been mindful to take them forward with their learning from their starting place. The key principles of our work are to keep these points in mind:

- It is important to realise that the zone of proximal development is a **moving target**. As a learner gains new skills and abilities, this zone moves progressively forward.
- Teachers and parents can take advantage of this by continually providing educational opportunities that are a **slight stretch** of a child's **existing** knowledge and skills.
- By giving children tasks that they cannot quite do easily on their own and providing the guidance they need to accomplish it, educators can progressively advance the learning process.

All of this means that we will identify gaps in knowledge and rapidly move to fill those gaps. Where appropriate, we will tap into the funds provided by the government to provide tuition, either in-house or through outside providers. We will continue to work hard throughout the autumn term to get children back on-track before their next academic year is complete.

School Reports for This Year

You will be receiving an electronic (pdf) version of your child's school report this year, as opposed to a printed copy. On this report will be comments about your child's personal development, detailed maths, reading and writing information, including an assessment of whether they were on-track, below or exceeding their year group's expectations as of the end of last term (end of March). This will give both parents and the new teachers a good baseline to check where gaps may have developed or where children have successfully continued to learn either at home or in our class groups this term. You will receive your child's report during the week beginning 13th July.



"Wow, great marks. Don't tell Daddy – he already suspects you're not his."

Free School Meal Vouchers

Parents who have been in receipt of the Free School Meals packages from our school kitchen will now receive vouchers to use in supermarkets. This means that there will no longer be a requirement to drive up to the school to receive the food, as you have done until now. Many vouchers have already gone out to parents, so if you do not receive a voucher in the next few days, please get in touch with us and we'll look into this for you. Children entitled to Free School Meals will get these vouchers every week throughout the summer holidays.

Key Worker Groups Update

Applications for Key Worker groups are now CLOSED. We are proud that we have been open to our Key Worker parents every single week since Lockdown on March 23rd. Sadly, we have now reached capacity and, even where we have children on our list, we have no scope for extra days. **The groups will close on Wednesday 22nd July at 4.30pm.**

Summer Holiday Arrangements

The Secretary of State for Education has confirmed that they are not asking schools to open over the summer holidays, and there is no expectation that schools should open for vulnerable children and children of critical key workers over this period. The government has stated that teachers, support staff and school leaders deserve a break, to recharge and rest. However.....

Summer Holiday Club: Further Information



In partnership with CM Sports, Herne is offering our facilities free of charge to this coaching company, in order to keep costs down for parents. The more days you book, the cheaper it becomes. 1 day is £20, 2 days £38, 3 days £54, 4 days £68 & 5 days £80. If you buy a season ticket for the whole 5 weeks, it will cost £275, which brings a whole day of childcare fun and activities down to a cheap £11 a day and that is for an 8.30am drop off to 4.30pm finish! Another bonus is that parents will be able to use childcare vouchers too!

The leaflet can be found on the top bar of our website. To book your child's place, please phone **02392 987 881**, go to their website <https://cmsports.schoolipal.co.uk/home> or email info@cm-sports.co.uk. The summer club is exclusively for Herne Junior School pupils and Petersfield Infants School pupils.

Transition Meetings – Message from Mrs Marshall (SENCO/ASSISTANT HEAD)

I know that I normally arrange transition meetings for a few of the children at Herne (if they are on the SEND register, find friendships hard, are anxious and for a number of other reasons). This year it is not possible to accommodate the number of meetings we normally do, last year I (along with the teachers) had approximately 40 meetings. If you have any concerns and you are normally involved in a transition meeting, please email me on e.marshall@hernejunior.com

Due to the situation we find ourselves in, I cannot promise I will give a detailed response to you, however, please rest assured that your comments / concerns will be discussed, shared with the teacher and noted. This should help aid a smooth transition, alongside what the staff (teachers and LSA team) are already doing. Please trust us. Thank you.

New Year 3 Children (Currently Year 2)

Just a reminder to ask that you send back your registration forms by Tuesday 7th July please. Thank you.

Lower School Socially Distanced Picnic!

For all children in Years 3 and 4, we would love to invite you to a dedicated picnic with just your class teacher and the chance to meet your new class teacher for September, who will pop along to say hello too. Classes will be split in half and invited in for a one-hour picnic slot. Parents will need to drop off their child for this picnic and collect them later. This is so that we can keep the numbers of people down to 15 children or less in each group.



The date for your child's picnic will be emailed out next week, the majority of these will be in the final week of term (week beginning 20th July) with the exception of Pear Class, which will take place on Friday July 17th. Although we would dearly like to have more than a one-hour slot, the majority of staff are continuing to teach Key Worker groups over the coming weeks (including before and after the picnics) and are being especially released from their teaching duties to be with their children. 😊

A Message from our Friends at Doodlemaths

In these unusual times, preventing learning loss is more important than ever. We want to support you and your child in any way we can, so we've created our biggest DoodleMaths Summer Challenge ever and made it even easier to take part! According to a study by the University of Bath, just 20 minutes of DoodleMaths a week is scientifically proven to combat learning loss. This inspired us to launch the Summer Challenge which has prevented learning loss in thousands of children.

What you need to do:

Step 1: Log in to the Parent Dashboard and in the Summer Challenge panel, press Register next to your child's name

Step 2: Encourage your child to earn 750 stars (or 600 if they were born after 31/08/13) and achieve a 14-day streak in DoodleMaths

Step 3: When your child has reached their goal, visit the Parent Dashboard and press Submit entry to claim their reward

If you have any questions or need any help, just head to the Parent Dashboard or doodlemaths.com, and click on the green chat icon to find answers or speak with the Doodle Parent Support Team."

More information about the Summer Challenge www.doodlemaths.com/video-doodlemaths-summer-challenge

Themes for the Home-Learning

Last week we began experimenting with weekly themes for the Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 Home Learning, to try and help to further engage the children. This will continue next week and will include Year 6s where the themes will be:



Years 3 and 4 – Our Planet
Year 5 – Sport
Year 6 – Theme Parks



INSET DAYS 2020-2021

As already agreed, both Herne and Petersfield Infant schools will be using Thursday September 3rd and Friday September 4th as INSET days for the new academic year. In the past, we usually use the first two days of an academic year to ensure that new staff are inducted properly. At Herne, we will have four new teachers starting in the autumn term. Clearly, this coming September, we will also be making sure that everyone is ready for the return of the children to school after Lockdown, government guidelines permitting. Therefore the new autumn term will start on Monday September 7th and at this stage, there are no plans for any provision during the week August 31st to September 4th.

At Funny Thing Happened On the Way to My Zoom Meeting!

It was one of those hilarious moments when one of our Year 4 teachers arranged a Zoom meeting with some of her class. Everyone signed in, including a couple of children in school. When the call had ended, it turned out that the ONLY people on the Zoom call were ALL IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING!! It made us laugh anyway! 😊

Read, Read, Read!

Over the summer holidays, we would love every child to read as much as possible because this is one of the hardest things to help children to catch up with once they're back in school. If your child has run out of reading books, do not panic! Our school library is linked to a website called 'Wheelers' where all our pupils can borrow digital books and audiobooks (all for free). It is a fantastic resource and well worth a visit. To start using the service:

- Go to <https://help.eplatform.co/hc/en-us/articles/115003984988-Downloading-Mobile-Apps> Select which version (Windows, Apple...etc.) you want and let it load. It will then tell you to launch it. It will tell you to find your library. Type in 'Herne Junior' in the long blue bar and 'Herne Junior School' will appear. Click on it. The username and password is the same as Education City. (Enjoy! 😊) www.stories.audible.com has a range of free audiobooks for children, including all the Harry Potter books. All books can be instantly streamed, with no login required and no downloading. **Oxford Owl** have now launched FREE e-books too! Go to this link: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/books/free-ebooks/>