

Knowing Every Child – Inspiring Every Mind – Achieving Every Day

Monday 11th January 2021

STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES



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Keeping Up!

Message from the Headteacher

On Friday afternoon I received the latest communication from the DfE against the backdrop of the worst figures of the pandemic to date. This guidance always comes with one link after another and it is a full time job keeping up. Along with so many other schools, we then go into overdrive to see what the latest information is all about. Whilst revisiting our COVID-19 Risk Assessment this weekend (not written up yet!), I sent a message to all parents, but aimed at our Critical Workers, just to try and reduce the risks to our community associated with lots of contacts with other households in the school building – ‘vectors of transmission for the community’, as the Prime Minister called it.



I have to say a huge thank you to the parents who responded to my message and reduced the days they had requested or withdrew their child from our list for the time being. THANK YOU 😊. As you can imagine, my job is a constant balancing act for what is best for our children and ultimately keeping our staff as safe as possible.

Overall, we have well over 85% of our children learning at home and my strategy is to pour the majority of our resource, time and effort into supporting these children. Whether this is through top quality Home Learning (thank you amazing teachers and LSAs), ensuring households have access to devices to get onto the Internet to see what we're sending out, or trying to organise food for our Free School Meal families, these are the things that keep us awake at night. Your support is both welcome and vital, because this state of affairs is in place at least until February 12th (half-term) and quite possibly beyond.

Finally, thank you for the significant messages of support, either to me directly, through our Twitter feed, on local Facebook/social media groups or spoken to me or my staff over the phone or in our live lessons. Those lovely bits of feedback really keep us motivated to do our best for our children and our community. If you would like to contact me, you can email me as always on:

headteacher@hernejunior.com

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

Free School Meals

For families where their children are entitled to Free School Meals, starting on **Monday 18th January**, the kitchen will produce a food pack containing ingredients for packed lunches for 5 days. These packs will be available every Monday until the voucher system becomes available. If you would like

to collect a lunch pack for your child please can you let Mrs Peacock know by early tomorrow morning latest (we sent this message earlier today direct to these families), as the kitchen will need to pre-order ingredients. Please email: admin@hernejunior.com
The packs will be ready for collection on Monday 18th January between 10.30am and 11.30am. **Please come to the school.** If you'd like to check if your child is eligible, check here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/en/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals/juniorsecondary>



Google Classroom – Further Support

We have been so impressed how quickly the children (with support from our wonderful parents) have embraced the Home Learning on Google Classroom. The staff had their INSET DAY training back in September, which feels like a lifetime ago, so we are definitely no experts and we are learning new features and techniques every day. We have been experimenting with whole year group live lessons, class lessons, small group lessons, sharing sessions – as well as increasing the amount of video inputs we have been including to support the Home Learning. We are still in the ‘experimenting stage’ and I am sure it has been an absolute whirlwind of new information for parents.

Hopefully, as we move into next week, we will get into some more regular routines. This week, some year groups have experimented with publishing a weekly overview of when all the live lessons will be, so parents (and children) have more warning what is happening each day (all year groups will be introducing this very soon). With many families juggling multiple children accessing lots of different lessons, we know the more warning we can give you, the better. I hope you can see that we are working really hard so that the children can be as independent as possible, to help all our parents and ultimately support our brilliant children. A special mention must go out to Mr Edwards and Maple Class who were our test class in the Autumn term; having one class using Google Classroom at home in December really helped us prepare for the provision we are now proud to offer. As the teachers are working at 100 miles an hour to get everything all online, whilst juggling filming videos, live sessions and planning the work, there might be the odd typo, or incorrect answer or missing live link, so please be patient with us while we adjust to these new ways of teaching. 😊

One thing to note: Please can you try, as much as possible, to make sure **your child has no background noise** if they are in a live lesson. Quite a few of the teachers have reported that they can hear televisions, conversations off-screen, excitable pets...etc. We know sometimes this is unavoidable, but where possible your support with this would be amazing.

Accessing Google Classroom from Games Consoles

ON PS4:

1. Turn on PS4
2. Use your controller to scroll to the far right of the bar with games to 'LIBRARY'
3. Select 'LIBRARY' application
4. Within the library, use the search bar to type in 'INTERNET'
5. Select the 'INTERNET BROWSER' app
6. Start Internet Browser and press the triangle button on the controller to search
7. Once on the internet, type in the search box 'GOOGLE CLASSROOM' and select the first link that comes up
8. Select 'GO TO CLASSROOM' then log in using student email and password.

ON XBOX:

1. Go to 'HOME MENU'
2. Select 'MY GAMES AND APPS'
3. Scroll down to 'APPS'
4. Go to 'MICROSOFT EDGE' application
5. Search for 'GOOGLE CLASSROOM'
6. Select 'GO TO CLASSROOM'
7. You will need to log in using your student email address and password

We came across this useful information during the weekend. We haven't tested this, but it might be worth a go if you've got an XBOX or PS4 in your home?

Joe Wicks PE – He's Back Again!

Joe Wicks has also started his PE lessons this week. He will do three lessons a week for 20 minutes each.

Here is Anthony Martin (Rowan Class – Year 5) joining Joe in one of his sessions!
Go Anthony!!



BBC Television Helps Home Learning

Today the BBC has launched lessons, which can be watched on televisions, helping many households who are struggling for devices to access the Internet. For junior age children there will be three hours of programming through CBBC every day. You can tap into these lessons on BBC iPlayer, but please note that you still need a TV licence to use BBC resources either on TV or online (thank you to one of our Twitter Followers for that note 😊).

Critical Key Workers - Accessing Home Learning at School

If your child is in school and accessing the Home Learning here at Herne, Google Classroom may say that your child has not submitted their work. However, the teachers in school will know the work has been completed in the Critical Key Worker bubbles, so please ignore any notifications that say that it was not submitted. Thank you.

Critical Key Worker Applications

Whilst we are trying to make sure the very highest priority groups are being covered, parents and carers who are Critical Key Workers, but have your children at home, will need to give the school a few more days to process all of the requests for different days and weeks. There are several children who will start at the beginning of next week and we will do our best to make sure they are reassured on their arrival. Please refer to the letter with a map, which we sent out last week. If you didn't receive this letter, please just contact the office on admin@hernejunior.com and we'll ensure you get a copy.

How Can I Get a Device for My Child to Use at Home?

As mentioned before, if you need to apply to loan a device from the school for your child to use for their Home Learning, please get in touch with us. As of today, we have ordered more iPads as a result of the generous donation from the jewellery designer, Annie Haak, and Steve Amos, one of our parents, dropped off 11 PCs to the school today. We have commissioned Jack Balmer, one of our ex-pupils (who now has his own IT business) to wipe the hard drives (for safeguarding and GDPR reasons) and install wireless cards into these machines so that they will work in people's homes. Please email admin@hernejunior.com if you would like to be considered for the loan of a device.



Leavers' Hoodies for Year 6 – Deadline Extended (Reminder)

As per our email, we are extending the closing date for ordering the Leavers Hoodies until 1st February. Forms can either be returned into our letterbox or send a picture of form via admin@hernejunior.com. Please ensure that payment and form are received by 1st February. Sadly, we cannot process any order without payment or after the closing date.

Missing Your Tweets from Donald? Twitter – Breaking News!

Are you missing the regular Tweets from a certain person in the USA?

Don't forget that you can follow us on Twitter to keep up with other regular breaking news or reminders. We also Tweet pictures and documents, including a repeat of this Flyer after every publication. Why not join the other 900 Followers and see what you've been missing!

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



Keep Hampshire SAFE

This Winter

Wash hands **Cover face** **Make space**

Hampshire County Council

VERY HIGH

If you have symptoms – get tested