

Herne Flyer 3 – Autumn Term 2021



Knowing Every Child – Inspiring Every Mind – Achieving Every Day

Friday 10th September 2021



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A Great Start! 😊

Message from the Headteacher

I am so proud of the way both children and staff have launched into this first full week back at school. Many things have returned to normal, including children mixing at playtimes and lunchtimes. I am also incredibly grateful to parents and carers, especially all of you who are new to our school community, for a smooth start to the autumn term. As well as keeping safe, which has to be a huge priority, I am acutely aware that you need to adapt to the new systems and expectations at Herne.



One thing that is always uppermost in our minds is how to safeguard our children, both at school and in the wider community. To this end, every child should have brought home this small A5 leaflet which summarises how to keep safe. **One of the key messages is that the children need to come back to our school office if their parents or carer has not arrived where they were expecting to meet them.** Please have a look at this leaflet and please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything in there that you would like to discuss.

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

Stay Safe & Best Wishes - Tony Markham

Communicating with the class teacher

If you want to get a message to your child's class teacher there are different methods of doing this. They are...

School-Home Link Book - these books should be parents' first port of call. They are checked every day and are the perfect place for short questions or queries.

Email (but please not too often) - we do also allow parents to email the teachers directly if it is a longer question – but we do please ask parents to not over-use these emails as, with 30 children in most classes, the teachers can find replying to emails very time consuming if parents use this method too often and can take the teachers' focus away from planning and delivering fantastic lessons (their email addresses are published on the year group curriculum letters).

Email or Phone the Office – if it is essential that the teacher gets a message before the start of the school day, the best way is to phone or email the office admin@hernejunior.com as they will make sure the teacher gets the message straight away. Whereas if you email the class teacher directly they may not get the messages until later, as they will be busy preparing for the start of lessons.



In Person - if you would like a quick word in person with the class teacher before or after school, you are welcome to pop into the office and ask if they are available. However, this is not always possible due to meetings, workshops and other commitments. The office will be happy to get the teacher to ring the parent back to arrange a meeting. Mr Markham is usually outside at the beginning and end of the school day, and is happy to chat informally with you.

Love Lane & School Car park

The school has been made aware of some inconsiderate parking along Love Lane in the mornings making it difficult to drive up to school. Also, our staff are finding it difficult to park because of some parents who are parking in school car park. Could we please ask that you only enter the school site in the mornings just to drop off your child unless you have specific permission from us to park (for example, if there is a member of the family with a disability). We have also had complaints from residents in Hoadlands, as parents have been parking in front of driveways. If you are able to park just a little further away from the roads directly adjacent to the school, this will help. We also have a Park & Stride scheme (see below).

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.

SCHOOL CLUBS UPDATE:

Football Trials

On Friday 25th September we will start up our free Upper School Boys and Girls football clubs (3.30 – 4.30). For a child to join these clubs they will need to attend a trial next week, just so we can check the amount of children that are interested in joining. The trials will be on:

Tuesday – Year 6 Girls and Boys trials 1.00pm

Wednesday – Year 5 Girls and Boys trials 1.00pm

It is on the children's PE days and they do not require boots and shin pads for the trial. We will remind the classes in the morning that this is happening.



Year 3 Lego Club

All of the Year 3 classes will have a visit next week to see how many children would be interested in joining a lunchtime Lego Club. This aims to give the children a chance to be creative, talk about the things that they have constructed, time to talk to other Lego enthusiasts and have fun! 😊

Butser Hill Challenge 2021

The Butser Hill Challenge will take place this year on Sunday 19th September, at Buster Hill, Queen Elizabeth Country Park. This is the 40th Anniversary. This local Hampshire running event is a unique opportunity for participants from a wide age range and has been a popular event for our children. We have 10 Herne runners already entered, however it would be great to see a few more. You can enter directly online at www.eventrac.co.uk/e/butser-hill-challenge 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.

The events are as follows: All Juniors compete in school year groups NOT ages.

| Event | Distance | <i>please arrive at least 40 mins before the start</i> | |
|------------------------------|----------------|--|----------------------------|
| | | Start Time | Approx trophy presentation |
| School Year 3 | Approx. 1km | 09:50 a.m. | 10:25 |
| School Year 4 | Approx 1km | 10:00 a.m. | 10.25 |
| School Year 5 | Approx 1km | 10:15 am | 10:35 |
| School Years 6 & 7 | Approx 2km | 10.50 am | 11.20 |
| School Years 8 -11 | Approx. 3km | 11.35 am | 12.15 |
| Senior (min age 16) Fell Run | Approx 5 miles | 12.30 pm | 13.45 |

There is a charge of £7 for each Junior entrant. This goes towards the cost of putting on the event. The Butser Hill Challenge also raises money each year for charity. This year every runner is encouraged to gain sponsorship for the New Blendworth Centre a very worthy local cause. <https://www.thenewblendworthcentre.com/> The New Blendworth Centre is a day provision for post-19 year old people with varying degrees of learning difficulties/disabilities. Gates will shut into our car park at pick up

CM Sports After School Clubs

Starting in the week beginning 13th September, CM Sports, who provide sports coaching to all of our year groups every week during PPA time, will be running two clubs as set out below:

- TUESDAYS - Y3 & 4 Lower School Netball
- WEDNESDAYS - Y3 & 4 Lower School Football



If you would like to book for either of these clubs, please see their website at the following link:

<https://cmsports.schoolipal.co.uk/clubs/school-clubs>

When you get to the site, either type in **Herne** in the box on the left or scroll down until you see the school's name. You will be asked to create a login in order to access the booking forms.

Breakfast Club & Twilight Club

Our Breakfast Club is open every day from 7.15 until 8.30. £4 per session. There will be a breakfast snack provided as part of this cost. No need to book. You will be invoiced after attendance. Entrance to Breakfast Club is signposted at the side of the hall.

The school also runs a Twilight Club. This club is booking only. Costs for this provision, which is run by the school is £7 from 3.30 until 5pm, then £10 if you need provision after 5pm through to 6pm. Letters are available from the school office.

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'. All you have to do is go to mymorrisons.com and register. Then for every £10 you spend you will be awarded a Grow token that you can donate to the school. We will collect these vouchers at our school office.

COVID-19: Future Communications

Hampshire County Council, the local authority to which our school belongs, has contacted Hampshire schools with the following communication:

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing to inform you that there are likely to be cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) from time to time in this next phase of living with COVID-19 in the community. Please be reassured that for most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. The purpose of this communication is to remind you of the importance of all pupils and staff, regardless of age, and their families, remaining vigilant regarding COVID-19, and indeed other infections. This is to protect their own health as well as the health of others around them.



We will not be routinely informing you of individual cases as they occur, as this is no longer an expectation. This is because, in line with Government guidelines, we will not be restricting the attendance of close contacts who are under 18 and 6 months or double vaccinated, only those individuals who have symptoms and/or who have tested positive or close contacts over 18 years 6 months who are not double vaccinated. If your child is identified as a close contact of the confirmed case, you may be contacted by NHS Test and Trace who will advise you on what to do next. You will not be contacted by schools any longer since this change in policy. However, we are continuing to monitor the situation and will work closely with Public Health England if the number of cases escalates to meet the thresholds for considering further steps. If this occurs, then further measures could be introduced but at this stage this is not deemed necessary. The setting remains open, and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

Herne's Approach to Keep Us Safe

Herne Junior School does urge families to lean towards caution if you have a positive case in your family and last week urged parents and carers to keep your child at home if they are awaiting a PCR test. Although we cannot insist on this plea, we are just remaining vigilant in these first few weeks. For everyone's safety, we did send a note out on Tuesday to shift to a slightly earlier pick-up time for Year 3 (from 3.20pm), just to try and reduce the number of parents gathering at the same time. As we allow pick-up times through to 3.40pm, you will be interested to know that the congestion is considerably reduced after 3.35pm. Ultimately, the plan is that all classes will leave at 3.30pm from 4th October onwards, once the children are confident about meeting their parents/carers.

**COVID-19:
We're all in
this together.
Be safe.**

We have increased our cleaning regimes and are continuing to get the children to wash their hands regularly. We are also keeping doors and windows open to increase ventilation indoors. During the autumn term, our hall will be out of action for assemblies, so we will not be gathering classes together indoors, which we think will reduce the risk of transmission. One exception to this is next week when we will have Year 3 together and then Year 4 for a short 15-minute violin concert.

If you are interested in listening to Mr Markham's colleague in a podcast (Jules White, headteacher at Tanbridge House in West Sussex), this programme of 25-minutes takes you through some of the latest thinking around COVID-19 and schools, including the vaccination of pupils (not primary school age). Here is the link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2021/sep/02/the-big-coronavirus-questions-as-a-new-school-term-begins>

PE Uniform - Reminder

Carrying on from last year, we have decided that on each class's designated Games day, that the children in that year group will still come to school in their PE kits. However, we want to tighten up the type of kit they wear, so it will be in line with our PE kit in the school's prospectus which can be found on our website.

PE Days are as follows: Years 3 and 6 on Tuesdays and Years 4 and 5 on Wednesdays. We will invite children to come to school wearing trainers on one additional day each week where they can use the running track, these days will be published in the coming weeks.



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If you would like to keep up with breaking news and receive the very latest communications, why not join Herne on Twitter? Just download the app and then look for us @HerneJunior We Tweet this Flyer every Saturday. 😊