

Herne Flyer 20 – Spring Term 2025



Knowing Every Child – Inspiring Every Mind – Achieving Every Day

Friday 7th February 2025

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A Note from our Headteacher

Dear Parents & Carers,

Firstly, a **huge thank you** to those who read the article about staff wellbeing last week and have started to use admin@ for communications to staff. It's made a huge and noticeable difference in only 1 week. Please keep up the good work but remember, if you are working with a Social Work team, you will have an attached DSL who will continue to be available directly for emergency messages related to Safeguarding.



Teaching is a funny job!! Have I used the right word? Probably not. This week has caused me to reflect on staff wellbeing and how our roles have changed over time.

I don't believe that any teacher considers their career choice as "just a job" - if they do, they've probably chosen the wrong profession. I grieved when I moved to leadership, leaving my own class behind, only to find that caring for 100s of children and many staff and families brought a 'job' satisfaction I had never anticipated. Like the large majority of teachers, Dealing with the trials, tribulations, tears and trauma has become a huge part of the job – family mental health needs have never been more prevalent. In contrast, the joy of watching children thrive academically and pastorally in your care, far outweighs the lows. It's a lot like being a parent - just with a much bigger family! Primary school teachers spent more waking hours with children than most parents do on a week day. They 'live' with 'their' children for a year, building strong relationships...and yes, come to love the children in their care. When their class moves on, they are genuinely sad but proud of what they've achieved together. It takes a huge amount of resilience on top of high levels of professional skill and knowledge to be a teacher. Those of you who tried home learning during Covid will remember how it felt...and our teachers and support staff choose to do this day in, day out! I'm very proud of Team Herne.



On top of this, all staff in schools have to put their own personal worries and family issues aside daily. Our children, have to be our first priority. This can be tough at times - we sometimes have to be very good actors! Teachers are people too...sometimes it's worth a reminder! **I am always very grateful to parents who take the time to stop and say thank you or offer a kind word to staff - it can make such a difference to a teacher or member of support staff. Everyone needs a smile or a pat on the back sometimes.**

Exciting news: Over the last 18 months, in order to support staff with career development, in addition to specialist training in SEND for support staff, we have had 10 teaching staff doing National Professional Qualifications (NPQs). One of these being Mr Peter Castle, who is shortly to finish his NPQH, which is preparation for Headship.

In keeping with this, I am delighted to announce that after nearly 14 years as Deputy at Herne, Peter has secured a Headship at Cheriton Primary. He will leave us at April to start his new role. While we are delighted for Peter, we know he will be much missed. We will be putting temporary arrangements in place for the summer term, giving existing staff a chance to "act up" but will shortly be advertising for a new Assistant Headteacher to work alongside me and Mrs Marshall (Assistant HT/SENDCo). This will allow some movement for other staff in terms of leadership opportunities. Watch this space for news. I know you will join me in thanking Peter for his total devotion to Herne...he's going to make a great Headteacher.



Transition: We are getting many questions re places for September. It's a horrible waiting time for parents and schools before confirmation of KS2 and KS3 placements in April. As demographic birth rate numbers are on a National low trend until 2030, we are waiting on the LA to confirm if we have 3 or 4 forms for September. We won't know until end of April/early May. The large majority of schools across the country are in similar positions.

At KS3 transfer, we are exceptionally grateful for the team at The King's Arms, who are working more closely than ever with us this year, as we develop a new transition programme for vulnerable pupils whether they are transferring to TPS or other schools.

Best wishes

Sue Sayers

Headteacher

And Finally...whatever you are up to this weekend, enjoy. We're having a quiet weekend, lots of yoga/running/swimming and a general chill out. Sometimes it's good to stop the busy world turning and just be together.



P.S. Notable day on Monday...the first children started at Herne in 1975. It's our 50th Anniversary Year. We will be having full week of Golden celebrations, ending in Hernefest in June. Watch this space for exciting things to come!

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



SOLIHULL APPROACH

available, including Arabic, Urdu, Bulgarian, simplified Chinese, Spanish, Welsh, Polish and Somali.

Herne Junior School is in a pre-paid area for the emotional health resources hub, <http://www.inourplace.co.uk> ('The Solihull Approach'). This means our families can access a range of free online support to better understand children's emotional health, brain development and wellbeing. All courses can be translated using Google Translate and some professional translations are

Bounce Workshops

This week Year 3 have taken part in Learn to Bounce workshops. This is to help the children manage their emotions and give them strategies to calm themselves when they have big feelings. Please find the link to parents if you would like to try some of the strategies at home. [Raising Resilience BOUNCE Programme](#)

NSPCC Number Day

This year's NSPCC Number Day took place today, Friday 7th February. As a school, we are participating in activities over the next week. If you would like to make a donation to this wonderful charity, we have provided you with the QR Code and link to the website to do so. This is voluntary, but for a good cause.

Thank you for any donations made.



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February		March	
Thursday 13 th February	School breaks up at 12.30pm for Half-Term	Wednesday 5 th of March	Parents' Evening
Friday 14 th February	INSET DAY – School closed for training	Thursday 13 th of March	Parents' Evening
Monday 10 th February	Ash Class Parents' evening	Friday 28 th of March	INSET DAY – School closed for training
Tuesday 11 th February	Ash Class Parents' evening	April	
		Friday 4 th of April	School breaks up at 12.30pm for Easter