

Newsletter 1 - Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Families,

Welcome back! It is so great to see all of our children back looking so well, so happy and so much taller than the last time we saw them! We've had a great couple of days getting everyone settled back in and catching up on all the things we've missed! It has been a very difficult few months since the school was last fully open with many of you facing unprecedented challenges. Although we are still a long way off from getting back to normal, having the children back at school certainly feels like a step in the right direction. As always, children make it so easy to forget about all the difficulties as they throw themselves into everything with such resilience, fun and a sense of having a go no matter what. It's been wonderful having them back!

Our new Nursery & Reception children have been coming for taster sessions over the past two days as they unfortunately had to miss the face to face events we normally do. It's been great getting to know them and they've had a great time finding out about their new environment and class mates! They start with us full time on Monday.

We also welcome some other new children into our other year groups. In Year 1, we welcome Leo Harper and in Year 2, we welcome Isaac Bishop, Isaac Clark and Isla Crabb-Elson. It is so great to have these new additions to our school community, I hope they are going to be very happy here with us!

We have our new staff to welcome too! We have Miss Elliott who is joining Miss Jack in Reception Class. In Year 1, we welcome Miss Cox and in Year 2 Miss Pollitt & Miss Besford. In our front office, we welcome Miss Batkin and in our kitchen working with Miss Karina is Miss Karolina! Wow - our school is really growing and all our new staff have spent a lot of time getting to know each other virtually over the past few months and getting prepared for this academic year. We are all very much looking forward to working together to give your child/ren the best start they can have in their school journeys.

Uniform & PE kits: As always the children looked absolutely fabulous when they started yesterday! Thank you for ensuring your child/ren had the correct uniform and looked so smart.

As mentioned in the email earlier in the week, on your child's PE day they need to come into school wearing their PE kit. Children can wear plain black jogging bottoms rather than shorts if they prefer as we will do as much PE as possible outside as per government guidelines. They are allowed to wear trainers too as pumps may not be comfortable to wear all day. Don't forget to take earrings out on your child's PE day if they have their ears pierced or provide micro-pore tape to cover up the earrings. Many thanks. An after school multi-skills sports club will run this half term for Year 1 & 2 starting next Thursday straight after school. A letter will be sent home on Monday with more details.

Reception Class: PE on Wednesday

Year 1 & 2: PE on Thursday

Reading books: We had hoped to send reading books home on Monday 7th but we are still assessing where the children are with their reading after such a long break. Therefore, the reading books will be sent home at some point during next week. If you still have any reading books or library books at home, please do send them back in. As a small school, we have limited numbers of these and this will be even further reduced if they are not returned. Thank you for your support with this.

Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy / Henhurst Ridge / Burton on Trent / Staffordshire / DE13 9TQ

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Diary dates for the academic year: Usually I like to have shared this with you by the time we finish for the summer but this wasn't possible this year. These dates will be published shortly.

Staggered start & end times: Please see a reminder of the start and end times for each year group. Please do your best to stick to your time slot so that there is a good flow of children arriving and leaving to prevent too many people on the school site and in the surrounding area at the same time.

Families of children can arrive/leave at the eldest child's time.

Class Bubble	Drop off time	Collection time	Designated area
Nursery	8:45am	3:15pm	Nursery gate
Reception	9-9:10am	3:10-3:20pm	Door at side of school by bike shelter
Year 1	8:50-9am	3-3:10pm	Year 1 Classroom door off playground
Year 2	8:40-8:50am	2:50-3pm	Year 2 Classroom door off playground

Breakfast Club and Little Stars After School Club: Both of these are back in operation. Breakfast Club starts at 7:45am and is run by Mrs Buckley who works in our Nursery. The cost is the same as last year at £3 per session which includes breakfast. You can either pay daily, weekly or monthly, but we do request payment either on the day or in advance. Please place money in a labelled envelope and this can be handed over to Mrs Buckley. The Breakfast Club room can be found by going onto the playground and it is the classroom door next to Year 2. There is a sign to show you where to go. If you need a place at Little Stars After School Club, please call Kirsty on 07487 638083.

Lunchtimes: We welcome back our lovely lunchtime supervisors, Mrs Freckleton & Mrs Bradbury and they are joined this year by two Burton Albion Community Trust (BACT) sports coaches who will be playing games with the children throughout lunchtime. Whilst the children have to stay in their bubbles, each class is allocated a coach or adult to work with them. So far this has worked really well. Mr Richardson (BACT coach) has been extremely impressed with the cricket skills that our Year Twos have been showing!

I look forward to writing to you next week to let you know how our new Nursery and Reception children have settled in. In the meantime, have a wonderful weekend and we will see you on Monday.

Best wishes,

Mrs Hopkins & The Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy Family