

Newsletter 2 - Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Families,

What a brilliant first full week back! It has been just wonderful to see all our new children join us in Nursery and Reception. They have done so well at settling in after not having our usual induction programme and also missing lots of their Nursery sessions. Thank you to all the parents who have also done such a great job of being able to leave their children at the door on the first day. Not easy when you haven't been able to get to know us as well as you might have. The new children are really getting to grips with 'big school' and all the new routines and making lots of new friends. It's been a real pleasure seeing how their confidence has grown from coming into the lunch hall to playing on the playground and I know this confidence will only continue to develop.

The Little Harriers are also getting to know each other very well and I love my visits down there to see what they are up to! There were lots of stories being read, songs being sung and fun in the sand this week! As for the Year 1 and 2 children - they seem so grown up! Their behaviour is impeccable and they are such a role model for our younger children when they see each other. We all miss doing whole school activities together. Some of the children have mentioned that we haven't had our assemblies together. I really miss that time and look forward to when we can do it all again so we can continue to build our whole school community, especially as we're getting so big! We will start having virtual assemblies on Monday and Friday next week so we can start celebrating our Harrier Values again. It's not the same as all being in the hall together but it will be good to share this time together and the successes we're having at school.

If your child is unwell: We are all facing difficult decisions around whether to send our children to school or whether to go to work ourselves when we are feeling unwell, as so many of the COVID19 symptoms are similar to that of a common cold and it can be hard to differentiate between the two. If you are unsure what to do, please do contact the school office where Mis Batkin or Mrs Dennis will be happy to talk it through with you or alternatively you can contact NHS 111 for advice. Similarly, we will contact you if we think your child may be too unwell to attend school as the day wears on or if they have developed any symptoms that we are concerned about. Please bear with us at this time and know that our priority will always be the health, safety and wellbeing of your children.

Survey: On Wednesday evening, I emailed out a survey to our Year 1 & 2 parents about our response to the COVID19 school closure and reopening. We've already had 24 responses which is brilliant - thank you so much and the comments have been extremely useful and informative. It will help us to know what areas went well and what areas we might need to improve should there be any further partial or full closures which we sincerely hope there won't be. You may have heard that Ofsted will be randomly selecting schools to visit in the Autumn Term to try to measure the impact of school closures. Should Henhurst be selected for this, your feedback would be very useful to show them. If your child is in Year 1 or 2 and was at our school last academic year and you haven't already done so, we'd be very grateful if you could take 5 minutes to complete it - see link below. Many thanks.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=EGorfMwEtEi30d9QFOXNBOE9jI6u5Jp9HTY8Z-3GhUOVYxVTkOVIAYWUE2TzNQUUNZREw1T1VETS4u>

Hand sanitiser: As per our COVID19 Risk Management Plan, the children wash their hands regularly throughout the day, a minimum of 6 times which doesn't include when they go to the toilet. At lunchtime, our Year 1 & 2 children wash their hands before lunch but then go

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out to play on the playground before coming in to eat. When they come into the hall to have their lunch, we have been using hand sanitiser. If you would prefer your child not to use hand sanitiser but to hand wash, please inform their class teacher. Many thanks.

Year 2 Phonics Check: As our Year 2 parents will be aware, in June the children should have had a Phonics Check which was cancelled. We have had notification that this will now take place after the October half term. There will be more details about this to come in the coming weeks so you and your child will know what to expect.

PE kits worn on PE day: Thank you for your support with this, it worked so well. The lesson was able to start promptly and go on for longer as there was no need for the children to change. All the children still managed to look smart and all jogging bottoms and trainers were appropriate, so thank you! Just a reminder to take earrings out on PE days or cover earrings with micro-pore tape. Please find a reminder below of the days your child needs their kit on.

Reception Class: PE on Wednesday

Year 1 & 2: PE on Thursday

Reading diaries & home learning: We have had some special new reading diaries that have been personalised to our school. They also come with a great sticker incentive too. For every 10 books, children can give themselves a sticker (found in the middle of the diary). If you have any feedback on the new diaries, please do let your class teacher know. These will come home slightly later for our Reception class as they need to have learned their Set 1 sounds first before bringing their reading books home. There will be an information session about how we teach reading and how you can help at home via Microsoft Teams coming soon. The date will be on our 'Dates for your Diary' sheet that will be coming home next week.

Home Learning will be starting next week and a letter will accompany it explaining our philosophy behind it and expectations for the different age groups.

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. It is lovely to see so many of you here so promptly in the mornings, we look forward to seeing the children's smiling faces when we open the doors at 8:40am! Just a reminder that it is important to ensure that your child arrives at school before the end of their drop-off time-slot as lessons start promptly at this time. Arriving late will mean that your child receives a late mark and misses the start of their first lesson of the day.

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

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Multi-sports after school club: Our after school sports club started again yesterday for our Year 1 & 2 children and was a great success! I'm not quite sure where the children get all their energy from after a whole afternoon of PE but they were still going strong right up until 4pm! We still have places available, so please do send the form back with the payment if you would like your child to attend.

Congratulations: to Esme Shaw in Year 1 on becoming a big sister last week. Esme and family welcome Freya Autumn who is the cutest little thing! Congratulations to the whole family. It looks like it is going to be a lovely weekend weather wise so I hope you enjoy the autumnal sunshine. Myself and the staff will look forward to seeing you back here, bright eyed and bushy tailed on Monday morning after a good rest!

Best wishes,

Mrs Hopkins & The Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy Family



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PRIMARY ACADEMY

PROVIDING THE ROOTS TO GROW AND THE WINGS TO FLY

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