

Newsletter 4 - Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Families,

Another week has passed and the children are getting even more settled into routines. For some of them, this is the first time they have been back in an education setting for six months so they are doing brilliantly! It is lovely getting to know all our new Reception children and other new children to the school, it already feels like they have been here forever! It's also great getting to know you our parents too and how you're finding things and settling in.

Attendance: Our attendance has yet again been great this week, despite lots of colds going round! Two days this week it has been 100% and the overall attendance to date is 97.1% which is well above the national average and something that always impresses Ofsted! Thank you for starting off the year so brilliantly even when there is so much going on nationally. Good attendance at school is crucial to give your child the best start in their education.

Around the school: One of my favourite things to do as head teacher, is to pop into classes to see what the children are learning about and see their enthusiasm! Unfortunately, at the moment it has to be a 'pop in' due to keeping the children in bubbles with the same adults. However, I am still able to see all the great things the children are doing. In Nursery, the children have been learning about when they were babies and were sharing photos of themselves. They also learnt how to take care of a baby at their 'Baby Clinic' by changing their nappies and giving them injections! In Reception, the children have been thoroughly enjoying the role play area and we had firemen, bees and builders on Wednesday! Year One had a fabulous time making crowns as part of their history lesson when they learnt about the Queen's coronation - it was so lovely to see them all coming out of school proudly wearing them! Year Two have been creating their own treasure maps and writing pirate stories and not to mention the fun they had on the laptops!

Twitter: Please follow us on Twitter **@HenhurstRidge** as you will see lots of the photographs on there. The teaching staff are currently competing to be the Top Tweeter of the half term so I expect there will be a flurry of photos for you to enjoy! Don't forget to retweet them as this really helps get our school known out and about in the local area. We won't have our usual open events for the parents for next year's Reception intake due to the restrictions we face so social media will really help promote the school. Thank you in advance.

Reception Phonics Information Session: The first of these takes place on **Monday 28th September at 4:30pm** for our new parents. It will last for around 20 minutes and will be recorded so that if you can't make that time, you can watch it at your convenience. Each child has a log in to Microsoft 365, the school's IT platform. To access the meeting, please use your child's log on details which you will find in their Reading Diaries that are coming home today, navigate to Teams and then the calendar and you will see a meeting scheduled for 4:30pm on Monday. If you click on that, you will join the meeting. Please mute the microphone until question time at the end to prevent any feedback. We hope you enjoy it! A guide to Teams is attached, should you need it. (Please see pages 5 and 6 for details of how to join a meeting).

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Hands, Face, Space: Thank you so much to all our parents that are doing their best to socially distance around the school grounds and estate. Please do try not to congregate at the school pedestrian gate and give way to oncoming people. Unfortunately, it is a very poor design that doesn't leave much space to get in and out but please do your best to give each other space - thank you.

Staggered drop off and collection times: Thank you so much for your support with this, it is really working well and we have now got much more time for learning. Don't forget, there is a ten minute window so if you're not here for the beginning of the time slot - don't worry.

Parking: We have received some feedback from the local residents regarding parking. As is stated in our Parking Agreement, please under no circumstance park over our neighbour's driveways or make it difficult for them to get out of their homes. One day last week, one of our pupils who must have been desperate for the toilet urinated behind a car outside someone's house. If your child needs the toilet and you don't think they can make it home, please do not hesitate to come back to school to use the toilets here. We appreciate how little ones can't 'hold it' so please do pop back into school. Thank you so much for your help with this. If everyone parks considerately, it makes it safer for the children and much calmer around the local area of which our school now belongs to.

Barefoot 3 Peaks Challenge: Many of you will have noticed Isaac and Haydn's Dad arriving to collect the children barefoot. Some of you may have thought he might have forgotten to slip his shoes on! However, he is actually about to embark on something truly incredible! This weekend he is attempting to do the National Three Peaks (Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike & Snowdon) barefoot! Most of us would find this kind of trek challenging full stop but to attempt 36km and with an ascent of 3000metres barefoot, is quite hard to comprehend. As a fellow teacher, he is trying to raise money and awareness for mental health within the education profession. All proceeds will go to 'Education Support' which is the only UK charity dedicated to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of education staff in schools, colleges and universities. With stress and anxiety levels across the sector reaching alarming levels, the charity is needed more than ever. The staff and I felt compelled to support this amazing cause and challenge and so have donated. If you would like to, please click on the following link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/barefoot-3-peaks>

Mr Clark, we wish you every success this weekend and hope the snow stays off Ben Nevis! We will be following your adventure on @the.barefoot.explorer. Good luck!

Harrier Award: The Harrier Value for this half term is Resilience. Please see below who has been chosen by the staff to receive this special award that was presented in our virtual assembly this morning. I am so proud of the children and all their efforts. I was even prouder to hear from each member of staff that they found it so hard to choose just one! I think that says it all! In Monday's assembly, I presented George from Year 2 with the first certificate. George has shown so much resilience in his Reading and Writing since coming back to school.

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Congratulations to the following children who were chosen by their teachers to receive a Harrier Award this week:

Class	Name	Reason
Nursery	Heidi	For starting nursery, moving house, coping with lots of changes and staying positive!
Reception	Bradley	For showing resilience by smiling and having fun throughout the day, even when he's missing Mummy!
Year 1	Harry	For not giving up in English and Maths when things get tricky!
Year 2	Emily	For showing resilience with new maths learning and always being an excellent role model in the classroom

On that wonderful note, I wish you a fantastic weekend and I'm already looking forward to what next week brings!

Best wishes,
Mrs Hopkins & The Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy Family



HENHURST
RIDGE

PRIMARY ACADEMY

PROVIDING THE ROOTS TO GROW AND THE WINGS TO FLY

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