

Newsletter 22 – Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Families,

Welcome back after half term and what great news to receive on the first day that all schools will be back in just over a week's time! Myself and the staff are elated and can't wait to see all of our pupils in person! It has been great seeing them on the screen, but nothing can replace having them here with us in school. We hope you are looking forward to it as much as we are! Please read on to find out more information.

Return to school Monday 8th March: All year groups will reopen on this day to all children. The Prime Minister has been very clear that **ALL** children must return to full time education unless they have had a letter from their health professional to say they should not return. If you are concerned about your child returning to school, please contact your child's class teacher to discuss this further.

We are still digesting the new guidance that was published earlier this week, but the procedures will mostly stay the same as before Christmas with staggered start and end times of the school day, children staying with their classes throughout the day, set adults with each class etc. I will send a letter next week confirming all the arrangements so that you can familiarise yourself with what we did in the Autumn Term and if there are any updates.

Reception Class Parents' Meeting via Teams on Wednesday 3rd March at 5pm: We are hosting a meeting for the parents of our Reception children to discuss staffing arrangements for the return to school. We hope all our parents can join us for this. A calendar invite will be set up in the Reception Team. If you are unable to join us a follow up letter will be emailed out directly after the meeting.

Children's wellbeing: After speaking to many parents over the past week, lots of our children are feeling anxious about coming back to school and this is not surprising. They have been through a lot over the past 12 months and we want to do our best to support each one of our children on their return. Please use this survey to let us know how your child is feeling and some suggestions of what you think might help. Together, we will ensure that your child's wellbeing is our top priority.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=EGorfMwEtEi30d9QFOXNBOE9jl6u5Jp9HTY8Z-3GhUNIQ2NVU0Tlc1UEw2R1pNMUxXOVpKMkkyTS4u>

Uniform: Just a quick reminder about uniform. The school uniform states that children should wear a shirt or blouse so that the tie can be properly clipped onto the collar. However, there are lots of children wearing polo shirts. I appreciate these might be easier to put on and more comfortable for some children. The school's preference is a shirt or blouse. If your child is wearing a polo shirt, they must still wear a tie. My Uniform on Wellington Street currently stocks our uniform and WB Schoolwear in Walton will also be stocking our uniform very soon. Details will be provided on this in the coming weeks. Both shops do Click & Collect if you need to buy any new uniform before your child returns. School shoes may be more difficult to purchase if your child has grown out of theirs. If you are unable to buy new school shoes before the shops reopen, please try and put your child in plain, dark footwear. Many thanks.

Dates for your Diary: Due to social distancing guidance still in place, we will need to review the events we had booked in the calendar. A revised 'Dates for your Diary' will be sent out next week along with the updated guidance around returning to school. One such change is that Parent Consultations have been moved from the week beginning the 8th March to after Easter.

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This is so we can have a chance to settle the children back in, see how they are doing and then feedback to you properly about their progress. More information will follow towards the end of the term about booking appointments. These are likely to be over Teams again.

There was an INSET day booked for the 12th March. This was taken on Friday 18th December instead and so will no longer take place on this date. School will therefore be open as usual on this day.

Another Blue Peter Badge winner: After Lukas inspired us, lots of the Year 2 children have sent off their writing they did as part of their class work that linked to the environment to Blue Peter and Hayyan received his badge this week!! Scroll down to the bottom of the newsletter to see him proudly holding his Blue Peter Badge and letter! Well done Hayyan - we are very proud of you! Let's hope there are some more on their way in the post!

E-safety Alert - FGTeeV: We have been alerted by one of our parents about this You Tube channel for gamers. At first glance, it may seem harmless and it describes itself as the 'Family gaming team' however, lots of the games are violent, aggressive and inappropriate for young children to be watching. Some of the songs have adult-themed lyrics also. We would strongly recommend that the children do not have access to this. Do please check it out if it's something your child is going on. Further to this, over the next few weeks we will be sending you an online safety at home newsletter, detailing things to look out for and ideas to help keep your child safe whilst they are online.

100 Laps for Captain Sir Tom Moore: Thank you to all the parents that have added their child's name to the form who have completed 100 laps. So far, we have walked/ran/scootered 6,700 laps. Thank you for all the photos - they have been brilliant! If your child has done it and you haven't had chance to add it to the form, please do so and hopefully we will reach our target of 10,000 laps! Please find the link here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=EGorfMwEtEi30d9QFOXXNBOE9jl6u5Jp9HTY8Z-3GhUREpVVzNDOE9UMVA5NjBBWDhCU0tJN05LVi4u>

We have also completely smashed our fundraising target of £100 by raising a whopping £562! So thank you for everyone that has contributed. This will go a long way in supporting children that have been greatly affected by the pandemic.

Feel Good Friday: Wow the teaching staff really did a fantastic job this week! I attended all the sessions and was very impressed with the content and it was so nice to have a drop in style session. Therefore, we have decided to follow this structure next week and incorporate it into a World Book Day theme. So next Friday, please dress up as a book character whether at home or in school and the day will be full of book related activities. The staff will send out information over the next few days to enable you to organise any resources that you may need for it. There will be story time sessions with different staff members that you can drop into. These will be sent out to you shortly. There will also be a time for the children to share with their class who they have come as. There is no pressure to dress up though, if you haven't got anything to hand, then just have your favourite book with you ready to share why you love it so much! We will start the day with a Wake Up Shake Up with Georgia again.

Congratulations: To Shiva in Reception class on becoming a big sister! Mum and baby are doing well and we know Shiva will be dying to tell us all about the little one when she comes back to school on the 8th March!

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Harrier Award: The Harrier Value for this half term is Aspiration. Thank you to Miss Jack for leading this week's assembly on this and introducing the new value. The staff will be looking for children that are being really aspirational in their work, in their abilities and in their play. Read on to find out who was given the Harrier Award this morning in our virtual assembly.

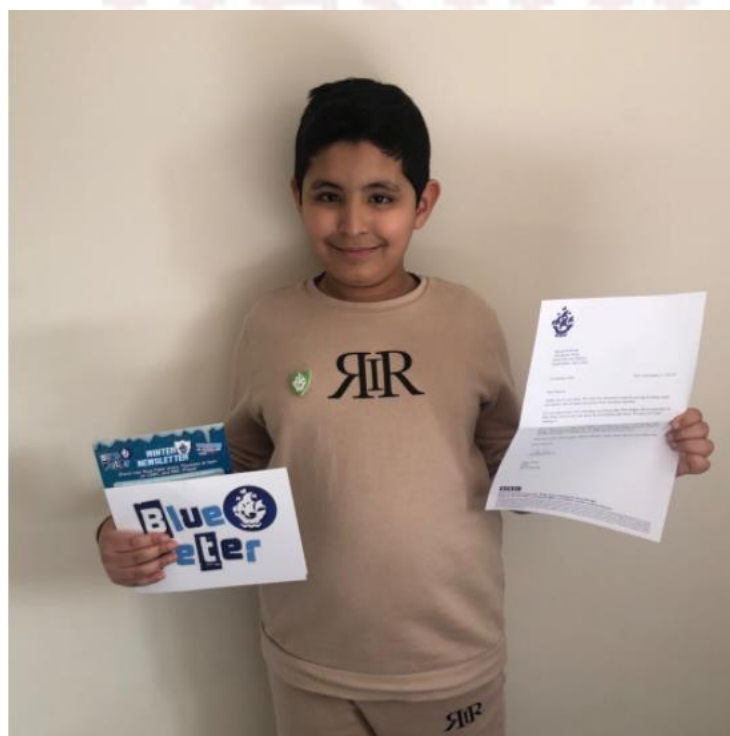
Congratulations to the following children:

Class	Name	Reason
Nursery	Beau	Beau has been making some lovely cards at home for her Nursery friends to make them happy!
Reception	Charlie	Aiming High! Charlie has grown and developed over the last few weeks, making great choices and learning lots of new skills.
Year 1	Leo	Leo has been really aspirational with his listening skills and has made some really positive choices. I am so proud of him 😊
Year 2	Leo	For his amazing attitude and motivation towards his work. His handwriting is awesome!

The weather is starting to look better! Wishing you milder temperatures and a sprinkling of sunshine this weekend!

With best wishes

Mrs Hopkins & The Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy Family



Hayyan, proudly holding his Blue Peter badge & letter!