

Newsletter 28 - 10th May 2019

Dear Families,

I hope you had a lovely Bank Holiday weekend, it felt like a real treat coming after such a long Easter holidays too!

New routine: First of all thank you for adapting so well to our new routine at the beginning and end of the day in terms of car parking. As usual, you are incredibly flexible and supportive and do all you can to help the school run as smoothly as possible, even when the weather is against us! You may have noticed that Mr Parker has put some cones and hazard tape between the pedestrian walkway and the car park driveway. This is to separate the two areas as when we used our new system for the first time on Tuesday, we realised that there is no pedestrian barrier to demarcate the two areas. I have raised this with the design team and the architect has visited site today to look at what can be done. In the meantime, please encourage the children to stay on the pedestrian walkway at all times. Hopefully there should not be many cars coming through the school gates when the children are coming in and out of school, but if there are, we need to ensure no pedestrians are crossing over the car park/driveway. Just before the gates there are two white lines that show the area where pedestrians should cross over the road should they need to get from one side of the pavement to the other. Please do use this so that we can show the children the safest place to cross. If the pedestrian gate is ever closed, please just press the buzzer and Mrs Dennis will let you in. You will see me most days in the morning or afternoon at the gate. It's something I've always enjoyed doing as a Head teacher, giving me an opportunity to wish the children an enjoyable day or find out how their day has gone. It also gives you an opportunity to have a quick chat with me too. I am very much hoping that the weather improves so we're not all huddled under umbrellas!

Taster Menus: We have one more week of this before returning to our usual system of the children pre-ordering their lunch in the morning. They really have done brilliantly and been very adventurous. They have all had a go at trying everything on their plate. I do hope they will continue this in the future. Miss Karina tried out a new cake recipe on Wednesday which the children devoured! It had courgette, carrot and apple in it which they didn't realise! It really was delicious as of course I had to sample it just to make sure it was okay!

Staffing Update: As you are aware we appointed Miss Jack as a new teacher to our school for September. Miss Jack comes with a wealth of experience in setting up Nurseries and as you know we are establishing our Nursery in September. Therefore, so that Miss Jack can oversee the Early Years Foundation Stage effectively and best support Mrs Blackshaw who will be the Nursery Manager, Miss Jack will be the Reception Class teacher and Miss Coxon will move up to Year One with our current class. This benefits the children in many ways. As Miss Coxon knows the children so well academically, she can ensure she plans for their next steps and continues the great progress they have made this academic year. All too often, there is a dip in attainment and progress when children move from Reception into Year One - this won't happen

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with this model. The children will settle into Year One very quickly as they know Miss Coxon well too.

As a school, we want to continue with Continuous Provision (the independent 'fun' activities that the children do around the classroom) into Year One which research shows is of great benefit to the children but not something Year One teachers tend to do beyond the Autumn term as the learning can become quite formal. Miss Coxon is experienced at providing rich continuous provision activities for the children and so will ensure this continues to be part of the children's curriculum entitlement. When we have this established in the Autumn Term, we will invite you in to see it in action. It will be another unique selling point for Henhurst Ridge that will enhance the children's learning experience and ensure the children at our school get the best possible start in their education. As you can imagine, Miss Coxon was delighted to know that she will be with her class for another year! It will certainly be a wrench for Miss Coxon when the time comes to let them go at the end of Year One for their move into Year Two!

We will be advertising for two new Teaching Assistants to join our school family soon - one to join Miss Coxon in Year One and another to join Miss Jack in Reception as Mrs Blackshaw will be managing our Nursery. More news to follow on this when we have made these appointments.

Fathers' Day Lunch: All Dads and Grandads are cordially invited to join us for a delicious roast dinner at 12pm on Wednesday 12th June. Please check your child's bag for a letter with more details. This year we have been able to invite Grandparents to our Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day lunches, however in future years when we have more children, we will hold a Grandparents' lunch to celebrate Grandparents' Day. Please remember to return the slip detailing your menu choice, together with payment, by Thursday 23rd May.

Before and After School Care: This year we have provided a Breakfast Club from 8am each day which has been well attended. When we surveyed you this time last year, there weren't enough parents needing after school care to enable us to make this financially viable. In place of this we currently have a very good relationship with Little Strawberries who provide that care for those that need it. Please find below a link to a new google survey so that we can see if your needs have changed for the next academic year and if you now require this service. This link has also been emailed to you. We have also sent it to our new parents to see what their requirements are too. I will write to you towards the end of the academic year letting you know what the outcome was and what we can provide next academic year. We are very keen to provide both before and after school care but I'm sure you can appreciate that whilst we are a growing school, we have to ensure it is financially viable for us to run and for parents to afford.

<https://forms.gle/hLdAPvpS5gqdg9QKA>

Congratulations: Huge congratulations to Wills and his family on the birth of baby Jude who was born a few weeks early on Good Friday weighing 7lbs 6 oz. Wills is ecstatic at being a big brother and tells everyone he meets. We know you will be a great big brother Wills!

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Harrier Award: As we have only nine weeks left of school this academic year (that's a scary thought!) and every child has received a Harrier Award, we thought we would look out for two children each week to receive the Harrier Award. It is always very hard to choose who gets it as all the children show so many of our values each week. This week, Miss Coxon, Mrs Blackshaw & Miss Ghafur have chosen Isa and Hallei to receive the award. Isa has been chosen for showing an increased amount of respect to those around him and was able to help some friends resolve an argument earlier in the week. Hallei shows respect in everything she does. She is extremely polite to all adults and children, letting others go before her and taking turns well. Well done you two; you absolutely deserve it!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Very best wishes,

Mrs Hopkins



Playing with our new lunchtime equipment on a wet lunchtime!