

## Newsletter 6 - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Families,

In last week's newsletter, I said how everything was working like clockwork and I had better not speak too soon - it looks like I spoke too soon!

It has been an exceptionally difficult week for all and I would like to thank you for all your understanding, patience and support. We had planned for the eventuality that there might be a positive COVID case at school but it was still a shock when we received the news and of course there is much to be done to ensure everyone's safety thereafter which is the most important element.

On Friday, when we had the news, we worked swiftly to report it to all the agencies that we are required to and to inform you our parents. The rule is that if anyone has had contact with the positive case, or is suspected of having contact then they must self-isolate. As you know we are operating in Class Bubbles which means that the children only mix with the children in their bubble and there are only a limited number of adults that interact with the bubble. However, that still means there are around 30 people within this bubble.

The first case affected both the Reception class and our 30 hour (full-time) Nursery children. On Monday morning, we received confirmation of a second unrelated positive COVID case which then affected Year One and has meant that the Reception class needs to isolate for longer. We know how worrying this must be for you but please be assured the isolation process is to prevent any spread of the virus. Today we were visited by a Health, Safety and Wellbeing Officer for Staffordshire County Council who spent the afternoon going through all of our procedures and walking the site to ensure we are following the government guidance. Many schools in Burton are receiving these visits due to the high number of cases in Burton whether they've had positive cases or not, but we especially welcomed the visit at this time to be sure we are doing all we can within our power to keep the children safe and this was verified during the visit.

We look forward to welcoming our 30 hour Nursery children back on Monday and then our Reception and Year One classes back on Friday - you have all been missed so much and the school has been VERY quiet without you!

**#Hello Yellow:** Today was #Hello Yellow day which was fabulous! I think we all needed cheering up this week and what better way to do it than with lots of bright yellow all around the place and smiling children! The Year Twos had a lovely morning with Georgia, our Dance teacher, who explored with the children how good dance and indeed any form of exercise is for their mental health. They created dances around this theme. Please see Twitter for some fab photos! It was great to see so many children wearing yellow when we did our Harrier Assembly on Teams too!

**Harvest Festivals** were due to be next week but as the Reception and Year One class will not be in school, theirs will not take place. Year Two's will still take place at **9:30am on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>**. We will schedule this on the 'Henhurst - 2' Team. We look forward to seeing our Year Two parents at this.

**Reception Phonics Information Session:** Part Two of the information sessions for our Reception parents will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm via Teams. The meeting will be scheduled on 'Henhurst R' Team. We hope to see you there.

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**Teams:** Each pupil should have access to two Teams: 'Henhurst - Student Share' and their year group one: 'Henhurst R' for Reception class, 'Henhurst 1' for Year One and 'Henhurst 2' for Year 2. This way the classes can have their own team where work can be more easily set and found, as well as the ability to use some functionality which we haven't yet tried. More to follow on this... The 'Henhurst - Student Share' will now be for whole school events.

**Staffing:** I am delighted to let you know that following a short recruitment process, we are welcoming two new Teaching Assistants to our school. Mrs Weston we be joining the Reception Class and Mrs Collins will be joining the Year One class. All being well, they will be starting with us before half term. We look forward to helping them settle in - I know the children will love them!

On another note, I am sorry to inform you that Mr Parker will be moving on at the end of October to pastures new. He has taken a position as Site Manager at a school in Ashby. We wish him every success and thank him for getting us started on our Eco Adventure, one that we are going to carry on with and I'm sure we'll do him proud!

We therefore have a vacancy for a Site Manager, please see link below for the details and do spread the word:

<https://www.wmjobs.co.uk/job/83124/site-manager-part-time-25-hours/?LinkSource=PremiumListing>

**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. It was great to see so many of you on our Teams Assembly to share in the children's achievements.

Congratulations to the following children:

Class	Name	Reason
Nursery	Sayde	Nothing has got in Sayde's way this week with her learning! She has been doing some fantastic counting with Numicon at home - well done Sayde!
Reception	Dexter	For showing resilience by working really hard on all of his Home Learning and with a beaming smile!
Year 1	Abdullah	Abdullah has shown resilience this week by constantly challenging himself with his home learning. He has worked really hard and in every video/photo his Mum has sent me, he's been smiling!
Year 2	Summer and Abubakr	For showing resilience as part of a team to complete a tricky maths challenge.

It seems that it doesn't matter where the children are, their resilience and fantastic attitudes shine through! Amazing!

Looking forward to seeing you all next week.

Best wishes,

Mrs Hopkins & The Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy Family

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# HENHURST RIDGE

PRIMARY ACADEMY

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