

Newsletter 9 - Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Families,

Welcome back after half term! It is fantastic to see nearly all of our children back. We have a few of our families self-isolating and some that have been affected by COVID19. We wish them all well and we're looking forward to seeing them return to school really soon.

Yet again as a nation, we are facing extremely challenging times with another lockdown and all that brings. For some families, it means that parents are furloughed or may even have lost jobs. We appreciate how hard this is and what a worrying and uncertain time. Please know you have our support and if you need anything at all, please do let us know and we will do our best to help. Fortunately, schools remain open for which myself and the staff are extremely thankful for. The children need to be at school, learning and playing with their friends and we have a lot to catch up on already without any more lost time. It keeps everything normal for them and for us. Children always see the best in everything and always make us smile! Let's find out what they have been up to this week:

This week's round up around the school:

Nursery: This week we have started our new Talk for Writing text-'We're going on a Bear Hunt.' The children began by sharing what they already know about bears and we cannot wait to see how much more we learn over the next few weeks. You may also have heard the children singing a song about Goldilocks visiting the bears too. This is definitely becoming a new favourite in the Nursery!

Reception: This week we have been learning to order numbers, finding one more and one less and identifying missing numbers in patterns. We have learned about constellations, making our own pictures using a ruler. We have been creative with Miss Banham and Mrs Holdcroft (our Student Teachers), making wonderful Firework pictures with poms poms, paint and glitter! A mystery basket appeared in our room - it had everything we needed to tell the story of 'Whatever Next!', a story all about blasting into space for a picnic on the moon. We can't wait to act out the story in our new themed role-play area next week!

Year One: This week in Year One we began our new Project: Enchanted Woodland. We went on a nature trail on the school field, took photographs of trees and we have learnt about the differences between domestic and wild woodland animals!

Year Two: This week Year 2 have enjoyed getting stuck into their new topic 'Muck, Mess and Mixtures'. They have been working as scientists to measure different liquids, investigate mixing materials together and have been getting creative with some marbling art.

COVID 19 reminders: Just a reminder that there shouldn't be any congregating on school grounds or in the surrounding area of the school. This is to avoid the transmission of the virus. Please only arrive at school between your allocated time slot to avoid this from happening (see a reminder of timings below). Please also ensure you are socially distancing on the pavements around school too. This can be a bit tricky as they are narrow but please do your best. The area with the highest footfall is the Reception class as this is our biggest class and where their pick up and drop off point is situated, it can become congested. Can I ask that parents socially distance in this area at all times? There are some markings on the ground just outside the entrance to the Reception class to help as a guide. We will be adding more in the coming days. Many parents have then been waiting in the area just outside the gates by the benches which is really helpful to avoid congestion - thank you for that. If I can actively encourage all parents to

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do this, it will continue to help with social distancing. Don't forget there is a 10 minute window so there is plenty of time to collect your child.

As of next week, please wear a face mask if you wish to speak to a member of staff. They will also be wearing masks when welcoming the children into school and when handing them over at the end of the day. This is for everyone's protection. As you will be aware, if a person tests positive and they have been within a metre of someone else for any length of time that person has to self-isolate so wearing a mask for conversations can really help this and again reduce transmission.

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

Wrapping up warm: As per the government guidelines, we have been keeping all the teaching spaces well-ventilated with windows open. Thank you for adding extra layers underneath your child's uniform - this has really helped. Don't forget hats, scarves & gloves for playing outside and it is imperative that these are all named so that we can make sure each child has the right ones. Thank you. Just another polite reminder that children should be wearing black jogging bottoms, leggings or shorts for PE not any other colour. Many thanks.

Relationship, Health and Sex Education Consultation: As you may be aware, there is new statutory guidance that came into effect in September 2020 around Relationship, Health and Sex Education. Due to the pandemic and subsequent school closures earlier in the year, it meant that schools could not consult on this with parents and share the materials the school is intending to use. Therefore, the government have extended the start date of this to the Summer Term 2021. It was our intention to open the consultation up this month and as part of this, you would have been invited in to hear about the draft policy on how we will be teaching this and to view the teaching materials with an opportunity to put into writing your views that will be taken into consideration. Unfortunately due to the lockdown, we are unable to invite you into school to do this and we do not feel that this is something that can be done virtually. We will therefore, postpone the start of the consultation period until December whereby we hope you will have an opportunity to come into school to view the materials. Please rest assured that no teaching of this subject will commence until this consultation period has ended and all points of view have been taken into consideration. Dates will be released about this as soon as we have confirmation that the lockdown will be lifted at the beginning of December.

Curriculum Overviews: These came home on Friday and are also available on our website as of next week. These tell you what the children will be learning in each of the subject areas over the coming half term and how you can support at home. Please do have a read of them so that it keeps you up to date and so you can hear about all the fabulous things your child/ren will be doing!

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Reception Class request for help: Their new Project this half term is called, "What happens when I fall asleep?" One of the activities the staff would like to do with the children is to hear from anyone that works night shifts so they can tell the children what they do. If you are a night shift worker and would be interested in joining the class via Teams at a time convenient to yourself, please do let Miss Jack or Miss Elliott know or the school office. Many thanks.

Year 2 Phonics Check: Our current Year 2 children should have had a Phonics screening in June but this was cancelled due to the school closures. It has now been re-scheduled to take place in December. There will be a Teams meeting about this held on **THURSDAY 19th NOVEMBER at 4pm** for all Year 2 parents to come to where the process will be explained. If you attended the meeting earlier this year you may feel you don't need to come to this one as much of the same information will be repeated. However, if you weren't able to attend or would like a refresher, please do join myself and Miss Pollitt for this. It will last about 15 minutes. We look forward to seeing you there.

Special Educational Needs & Disability Coordinator (SENDCO): Each school is required to have a Special Needs and Disabilities Coordinator. As a small and growing school, we share a SENDCO with some other REACh2 schools. Her name is Louise Davies and she comes into school each month to work with the teaching staff and any children that may have identified Special Educational Needs or any concerns of this nature. When Louise is not on site, I act in role of the SENDCO. If you have any concerns about your child around special educational needs, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher in the first instance and they will then discuss it with myself & Louise so that we can put things into place to best support your child.

Flu immunisation programme Friday 11th December: As far as we know, this is still planned to go ahead. We should receive packs about this soon that explains all about it and a form for you to request that your child has it if you would like your child to.

Open Event Tours: Sadly we have had to postpone all of these that were due to take place in November because of the lockdown. We are hoping to do them in December. So if you know anyone interested in a Reception school place for September 2021, please do let them know we're hoping to re-schedule all being well.

Poppies on Sale: Poppies will be on sale in school next week for the children to buy. If you would like your child to buy a poppy, please send in a donation in an envelope with their name on and we will ensure they have an opportunity to buy one. We will be holding a special Remembrance Day assembly on Wednesday where we will join the nation in observing the two minute silence at 11am.

Children in Need Friday 13th November: Friday is Children in Need day so the children can wear their own clothes and or Pudsey merchandise for £1 for this brilliant cause.

Harrier Award: The Harrier Value for this half term is Respect. This is also one of the British Values that the children learn about whilst they are in school. We always learn about this in November as it is anti-bullying month and so respect goes hand in hand with this. Please see below who has been chosen by the staff to receive this special award that was presented in our virtual assembly this morning.

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Congratulations to the following children:

Class	Name	Reason
Nursery	Noah	For showing respect with his incredible manners! Well done Noah, that's brilliant!
Reception	Niamh	For showing respect for our classroom by making sure it is always tidy and that the toys are looked after!
Year 1	Keira	For showing respect to her class mates by always being kind to them and helping in any way she can! Fantastic!
Year 2	Isla	For having a fantastic attitude and having impeccable manners. Isla has also demonstrated excellence in Maths!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. Stay safe.

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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