

Newsletter 16 - Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Families,

What a week this has been. I think we were all expecting another national lockdown at some point but not quite as quickly as this. It certainly took myself and the team by surprise and especially the length of it. First of all, thank you again for your words of support and your measured response to sending your child into school. It is vital that we keep the amount of contact between households to the minimum and that is certainly possible with the amount of children we have in school at this time. Secondly, thank you for your amazing response to the Remote Learning! There has already been so much involvement and some of the work the children are producing is fabulous! All the children are trying hard which is all we can ask. Thank you for bearing with us as we experience some technical issues but I think we are about there now. If you are still experiencing issues, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We are more than happy to talk through things over the phone or have a Teams meeting to show you how to do something (although as you can tell - we're still teaching ourselves!)

Live lessons: These have been going really well and I think the staff have been doing such a great job! I want to say a huge thank you to them, since as I said before, it is a very different way of teaching and can be quite daunting but they have really thrown themselves into it! We have tried to get a balance of live lessons and work posted on Teams/Tapestry/Seesaw and set challenges for anyone that would like more work. Please do feedback to your class teacher about the amount of work being set either via Live Lessons or what is uploaded to Tapestry/Teams/Seesaw and whether this is about right. I will be sending a survey out in the next week or two also to gauge how we are doing with this.

INSET day - Friday 15th January: Next Friday has been a planned INSET day for a few months where the teaching staff will receive remote training on the Talk for Writing approach that we use to teach writing. We are unable to change this and therefore, we will still be going ahead with it so the school will be **closed to all children that day.**

New additions to our Henhurst Community: On Monday, we had a new addition to our Reception class, Oliver. Unfortunately, he only had one day with us before the school closed! He had a great first day and we look forward to welcoming him back when the rest of the children come back in, in a few weeks time.

Over the Christmas period, we had two new arrivals to our existing Henhurst community with the birth of two new babies! Ava from Reception class welcomed a baby brother called Lewis and Wren (also from Reception Class) and Evie (in Year One) have welcomed a baby sister called Blythe. Both babies are doing great, as are their Mums! Congratulations to all concerned and we look forward to them enrolling at Little Harriers in a few years' time!

In other very exciting news, we have our first Henhurst staff baby on its way in a few months! Miss Jack is expecting her first child in May, huge congratulations to her and her partner Rob. All being well, Miss Jack will continue working until Easter but of course we will need to take extra care of her during the pandemic. We will shortly be advertising for a Maternity cover replacement to work alongside Miss Elliott. I will update you when we have appointed.

Welcome new staff: We also welcome two new staff members. Miss Whittle is a new Teaching Assistant who will be working with Mrs Blackshaw and Mrs Buckley in Little Harriers Nursery. As our numbers are growing in Nursery, we need more adults and so we are delighted to have

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Miss Whittle working with us. We also welcome a new addition to our Lunchtime our lunchtime team with Mrs Muldoon who will be working with our Year 2 children at lunchtimes while we operate in Class Bubbles.

Harrier Award: The Harrier Value for this half term is Responsibility. 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	Sayde	For showing responsibility when using the new Bee bots! Well done Sayde - keep it up!
Reception	Ivy	For taking responsibility for her home learning, being on every live lesson and completing her learning tasks beautifully!
Year 1	Ethan	For showing fantastic enthusiasm in his live phonics lessons and putting in lots of effort!
Year 2	Hayyan	For his excellent contributions to his home learning - Hayyan you really have wowed us!

I look forward to seeing you on Monday in our virtual assembly and on the live lessons in the coming week.

Wishing you a relaxing and as stress free a weekend as possible! Please stay safe.

With best wishes

Mrs Hopkins & The Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy Family