

Newsletter 18 - Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Families,

We are now at the end of our third week of having to work in this way and the children and yourselves continue to do an amazing job with the Remote Learning. Thank you so much for everyone that answered our survey from last week with what has been overwhelmingly positive feedback. It really does mean a lot to myself and the staff. We are all in uncharted waters and feeling our way so it is great to know that on the whole the majority of our families are satisfied with what we are doing and that it is appreciated but it also helps us to continuously improve and tweak things. Please find a summary of the survey attached.

As you can see by the results, 93% of our parents thought that the amount of Remote Learning and Live Lessons is about right, however that still leaves 7% who don't. As the overwhelming majority think it is about right, we will continue setting what we have been doing but we are VERY keen to hear from the 7% who didn't individually. I strongly encourage those parents to mention it on your next wellbeing phone call or email your class teacher so that we can get this right for all our children. Communication is key and as a school, we would prefer to know how we can make things better for individuals, rather than your child not getting what they need.

There have been some more general comments that we will take on board and action next week. Once again, thank you so much for your feedback! The survey can still be accessed, so if you haven't had chance to do it yet, it would be great if you could. Thank you.

Reading books: We were hoping to change over the reading books that we sent out in the first week. As we sent quite a lot of books out, we are hoping we have enough of a supply to change them over for you next week. If you would like new reading books for your child/ren, please email the office or message your class teacher, telling them which colour books you currently have and when you would like to collect the new ones. We will then do our very best to have them in the office on that day. If we do have a supply problem, we will let you know and try and come up with a solution. Don't forget, there's a brilliant supply of reading books on Oxford Owl.

Nursery Bubble Closure: After only just having our lovely Little Harriers back in school, we had to close the bubble this week due to a positive COVID 19 case. All being well, we are expecting our Little Harriers back on Monday.

Full re-opening of school and staff testing: Yesterday the Education Secretary announced that there will be a two week notice period for when schools will reopen. We will of course keep you up to date as soon as we know more but as you are probably aware, we often only find out as it is announced nationally.

From next week, school staff will be able to have a COVID19 test twice a week. This will help identify any asymptomatic staff and so help to prevent the spread of the virus. It will of course mean that there may be some staffing disruption if staff members have to self-isolate if the test is positive. We will do our best to minimise the impact of this on Remote Learning and will keep you fully informed throughout.

Talk for Writing training: We were lucky to have some fabulous staff training last Friday on our approach to teaching Talk for Writing. We look forward to sharing more about this with you after half term and hopefully you are seeing the impact of this in your child's writing.

Newsletter 18 - Friday 22nd January 2021

Devices for Remote Learning: We still have some laptops that we can loan out to anyone that might need them. Please do call the office and we will be happy to sort one out for you.

Harrier Award: The Harrier Value for this half term is Responsibility. We have seen some absolutely fabulous examples of this through Tapestry, Seesaw and Teams. Read on to find out who was given the Harrier Award this morning in our virtual assembly. There were also lots of shout outs for those that shared what they have been doing!

Congratulations to the following children:

| Class | Name | Reason |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| Nursery | Luke | For coping with all the changes really well and trying so hard to learn how to write his name! |
| | Reggie Henderson | For his amazing 'have a go at everything' attitude! Well done Reggie and keep it up! |
| Reception | Matilda | For showing responsibility in the community when she saw bins that had blown over. She picked them up so they were not a hazard! Wow fantastic Matilda! |
| Year 1 | Hafsa | For working so hard on her Remote Learning and as a result making fantastic progress in her phonics! Brilliant! |
| Year 2 | Nova | For persevering with her writing and as a result producing an amazing start to her story! Well done Nova, Miss Pollitt is so proud! |

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

Wishing you a lovely weekend. Please stay safe.

With best wishes

Mrs Hopkins & The Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy Family