

Newsletter 1

Friday 10th September 2021

Message from Mrs Hopkins:

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the start of our 4th academic year as a school! We are really excited not only to have grown as far as Key Stage 2 and using classrooms upstairs but to be able to leave the majority of the COVID19 restrictions behind. Please see attached letter as to what this looks like. It was a very emotional moment on Monday morning when the whole school was in the hall for our first assembly as a school since March 2020! It was a very special moment indeed!

The children have all come back to school looking super smart, happy and ready to learn so thank you for all the preparations you have done to help make this happen. Please can I just remind parents to ensure they have written their child's name inside each item of clothing. With so many items of uniform in the same size in the same class, it makes it very easy to get them mixed up. Thank you for your help with this.

The playground work has been a real inconvenience so thank you for your patience and assistance with this. I have been told that the works will be completed on **Tuesday** so we can start accessing the playground at the start and end of the day again from Wednesday. A reminder of where to drop your child/ren off and collect will be sent out on Monday.

The newsletter will now become a monthly item rather than weekly. To keep up with events weekly, please follow us on Twitter where you will find out what's been happening in school that week. This is where the weekly Harrier Award recipients will be posted also.

Please do read this edition of the newsletter carefully as there's lots of important information and some new ways of doing things.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Mrs Hopkins & The Henhurst Ridge Family

Curriculum overviews: These will be sent home on Monday and can be accessed via our website. They tell you at a glance what your child/ren will be taught during each half term and ways you can support this at home. Throughout the year, we will be hosting workshops and information sessions about different curriculum areas so that you are well informed as to why we teach subjects in the way we do and again how you can support this at home. Some of these are already listed on our 'Dates for your Diary' sheet attached. More will be publicised.

'Dates for your Diary': This will be emailed out on Monday morning which has most of the key dates for this academic year on there, please do make note of them on your calendar. As other dates are added, we will update the website copy so that is always up to date. Dates to be added are events such as: school photographer, class trips, guests coming into school etc. Some events advertised may not specify whether they will be in person or via Teams/Zoom. We want to return to normal as much as possible, but we do have to be guided by whatever the local COVID19 situation is nearer to the time of the event.

COVID19: Please read the attached letter that outlines the changes that are now in place in and around school since the restrictions have eased. The letter also tells you what to do if your child displays COVID19 symptoms and what will happen if someone in school tests positive.

Reading books & Home Learning: Reading books will be re issued to those year groups that are ready to have them shortly. We will also reopen our library in the next few weeks so children can check out a book for reading for pleasure purposes. Our Home Learning strategy will be shared with you next week via email.

Road works on Henhurst Hill: We have been informed today that the gas works on Henhurst Hill will last for approximately 4 more weeks. Unfortunately, next week, a 3-way traffic light system will be set up at the exit on Aviation Lane. This will obviously cause even more disruption. Please be assured that school will be flexible during this time and no late marks will be given to any child arriving late due to this. Equally if you are delayed collecting your child/ren, please do not worry, they will be well looked after until you get here. Please just get here safely and park responsibly. Thank you.

Parking: As we start the new academic year with a new cohort of children and without the separate times for each class coming in and out of school, the traffic congestion and parking is inevitably going to be a challenge. Please can we stress the importance of parking responsibly so that we can keep all of our children safe. When people park inconsiderately or block other motorists then it poses a risk to the children. The school continues to work with the Local Authority and the Borough Council to try and find a solution to this issue.

Communication: There are several ways that we will work in partnership with you. Please see the list below:

- Catching your child's class teacher or Teaching Assistant at the beginning and end of the day - this has not been as easy at the moment but will get easier next week
- Messaging the teaching staff via Tapestry or Seesaw - this will get directly to the staff working with your child
- Phoning school to leave a message for the teaching staff to call you back when they are not teaching
- Emailing into the school office for general enquiries
- Reading the monthly newsletter & text messages
- Following us on Twitter
- Please do book an appointment with Mrs Hopkins if your child's class teacher is unable to answer your query.

PE Kits: Just a reminder that PE kits are to be kept in school during each half term and then they will be sent home to be washed during the holidays.

Children **should not** come into school wearing their PE kit. Please do speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions about this.

Uniform: Ties are a key part of our uniform, please ensure your child is wearing one each day and that it is labelled in case it comes off. Jewellery is not allowed due to health & safety reasons except one small pair of stud earrings and a watch. The earrings should be removed on PE days or taped over so that it is safe for them to do PE. Nail varnish is not allowed.

Catering: As you will remember from our last newsletter, Miss Karina our Catering Manager went on Maternity leave in July. She gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Tim and is very much enjoying her time at home with him. Unfortunately, Chartwells (our Catering provider) have been unable to find a replacement for her due to the national catering staff shortage.

Christchurch Primary School have been helping us out with their fabulous staff whilst Chartwells continue to advertise for a replacement. During this time, we will continue to have a reduced menu although the new tomato pasta is proving very popular! Each week, we will advertise the revised menu for the following week via email so that you can help your child decide what they would like.

Here is next weeks:

Day	Menu choice
Monday	Vegetable Pizza
Tuesday	Mac & Cheese
Wednesday	Quorn Roast
Thursday	Veggie Balls in Tomato Pasta
Friday	Fish Fingers and Chips

Clubs restart next week: We had a brilliant response to the After School Clubs that will start on Tuesday & Thursday next week. You will receive a text on Monday if your child has a place this half term. If they do not get a place due to class size numbers, they will have one next half term. Our Reception friends can join clubs in the Spring Term.

Teaching staff & Class names: Please see a reminder of who your child's teaching staff are below. Photographs of staff members are attached to this email and once the school photographer has been in and taken professional photos of the staff, these will then be available on the school website. We are just awaiting a date for the school photographer.

Do please feel free to stop by at the end of the day to say hi or ask any questions. Do also look at the 'Dates for your Diary' sheet on Monday for the open mornings coming up in the next few weeks that will give you an opportunity to spend some time in your child's classroom and meet the teaching staff.

In other very exciting news, each class teacher has chosen an inspirational Environmentalist to name their class after. This is in keeping with our environmental ethos. The idea is that each year they will gain an in-depth knowledge of someone who has done great work for the environment and so by the time they leave our school, they will have built up quite a knowledge bank! In the Spring Term, each class will be leading an assembly where they will tell you more about their namesake.

Class name	Teaching staff
<u>Little Harriers (Nursery)</u> named after our school mascot	Mrs Blackshaw, Mrs Buckley & Miss Hussain
<u>Attenborough Class</u> named after Sir David Attenborough	<u>Miss Johal</u> Miss Whittle & Miss Jesson
<u>Thunberg Class</u> named after Greta Thunberg	<u>Miss Crean</u> Mrs Carlile & Mrs Harriman
<u>Silva Class</u> named after Marina Silva	<u>Miss Cox</u> Mrs Collins & Mrs Hance (Unfortunately, Mrs Skitrall who was due to work in this class was unable to join us)
<u>Packham Class</u> named after Chris Packham	<u>Miss Pollitt</u> Miss Knight & Mrs Collins
<u>Kamkwamba Class</u> named after William Kamkwamba	<u>Mrs Elliott</u> Miss Imran

Class teacher's name is in bold and underlined

New children! First of all a massive welcome to all our new children in Nursery and Reception! We are delighted that you have joined us and we hope you will be very happy at our school! A huge welcome to all our parents and carers, we hope you will also be very happy with us and enjoy getting involved in the different aspects of school life. We'd very much like to see you at our Friends of Henhurst group - see information below.

We also have some new children joining us in other classes:

Noah & Esmè Jensen-Watts have come back to us from Dubai. We are delighted to welcome them back!

In Silva Class we welcome Ratmir.

In Packham Class we welcome Daisy & Adeel.

In Kamkwamba Class we welcome Idris & Adam.

So our school is really starting to look nice and full!

We know you will make them and their parents feel really welcome as part of the Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy Family.

In other exciting news we are delighted to announce that Miss Cox got engaged over the Summer holidays. Congratulations to her and her partner Josh! Also a huge congratulations to Miss Elliott who got married over the holidays and she is now known as Mrs Elliott - nice and easy for us all to remember!



So lovely to have all our children in assembly in the hall! What a treat!

Some key dates coming up:

Friday 24th September 8:45-10am: Macmillan Coffee morning, all parents and carers are welcome into school to share a cup of coffee or tea and a slice of cake. Cake donations warmly welcome.

Wednesday 29th September: Year 3 Kamkwamba Class Open Morning. 9-10am. All parents are cordially invited into school if they are able to see the class in action!

Tuesday 5th October: Year 2 Packham Class Opening Morning. 9-10am. All parents are cordially invited into school if they are able to see the class in action!

12th October 2021 6:30-7:30pm - Friends of Henhurst Parent/Carer group - a chance for you to meet other parents and do some fantastic fundraising for our school!

Please refer to our 'Dates for your Diary' sheet that's out on Monday for more important dates.