

Friday 14th January 2022

Message from Mrs Hopkins:

Dear Families,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you have had a good start to the year although I know quite a few of you have been affected by COVID19. If you have, I hope you and your families make a speedy recovery. Please see an update in the section on COVID19.

The children have come back refreshed and ready to learn, getting stuck into their new projects which have a History focus this half term. The Little Harriers' project is called: 'Do dragons exist?' Our Reception and Year 1 children are learning about The Great Fire of London. Year 2 are learning about the Titanic and Year 3 about The Anglo-Saxons. The children have had an exciting launch into their projects in the past week and have already learnt some interesting facts. Please do help them to remember the key facts on their Knowledge Organisers (Years 1-3 only). To ensure these facts stick and go into their long-term memories, we will keep coming back to them throughout the half term. Ask them about them at home and find out what they know! We're really excited to launch Planet Super League this week too and hope you will get behind it to help support our environmental pledge. Knowing how enthusiastic our children are around this important issue, we're expecting to do really well!

At the beginning of February, we will be celebrating Children's Mental Health Week and launching our 10 good deeds adventure. More on this in a few weeks.

The Friends of Henhurst will be meeting on Wednesday 26th January at 6:30pm at school (all being well) to plan out some more fun activities for our children to take part in this term so there is much to look forward to as we very slowly try to return to normal.

I think we're all looking forward to that!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Hopkins & The Henhurst Ridge Family

Curriculum overviews and Home Learning

opportunities: These have been sent home this week 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. Please do engage with the Home Learning opportunities. It is designed to help children with their basic skills but also to further their interest in a fun and practical way. Don't forget the importance of daily reading with your child/ren. This is vital to aid their reading development.

Punctuality: It is really important that your child is in school on time. It helps them get a great start to the day by being in and ready to learn. It means they don't miss important learning. We offer learning opportunities from 8:30am and learning starts at 8:45am. It can be distressing for your child if they arrive late to lessons and can take them longer to settle in. It's also a skill for life to be punctual. Please do all you can to ensure your child arrives on time.

Pick up: Please also ensure your child is collected on time. Reception & Year 1 should be collected at 3pm and Year 2 & 3 at 3:10pm.

Lucky Tray event: On **Thursday 20th January** we are holding a lucky lunch tray event whereby there will be several lunch trays with raffle tickets on the bottom of them and the children win a prize if their tray has one! The menu for the day is fish fingers and chips followed by ice-cream, along with all our other usual choices. We hope all our children will have a lunch on this day.

HOPE virtual parent support session: Please see a flyer attached that offers a free parent session on how to help your child if they suffer from anxiety. There's a link to register for the event.

COVID19: A huge thank you yet again to some of our parents who have unfortunately tested positive but have been very proactive ensuring their child has had a PCR test and keeping their child off school if needed. It has really helped to reduce the amount of cases within our school community so that we can keep on with the learning for as many of our children as possible. Currently, we are asking any visitors into school or into the main entrance to wear a face covering. The isolation period is now reducing for positive cases to 5 days from Monday and so we hope this is another step towards returning to normal. Please remain as vigilant as you have been for any symptoms and continue to be as proactive - thank you.

Uniform: The following information has been in the past few newsletters, but we are still not seeing all children adhering to it. Please do read the following and follow it - especially about jewellery. This is a key health & safety issue.

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.**

New pupils: We are delighted to welcome a new pupil into our Year 3 class. Yunus joined us straight after Christmas and has settled in brilliantly - it's like he's always been with us!

Little Harriers: We are also delighted to welcome a new cohort of Nursery children some little brothers of our children in Year 3. There has been many squeals of delight as they have seen their younger siblings.

A warm welcome to:

Jaxon, Inaaya, Alfie-Fox, Sumayyah, Freddie, Addison, Daisy and Qasim.

Parking: This continues to be a challenge, particularly in the afternoons. Please can I beseech all parents not to block residents' driveways. I have been sent photographs of such things from residents that cannot leave their homes because someone has parked across their drive. **This is unacceptable and must stop.** On **Tuesday 25th January at 6:30pm**, the Branston Parish Council are holding their regular meeting in the school hall and one of the items on the agenda this time is the parking around the estate. Please do come along if you have something you would like to add to this discussion. The residents are keen to work with the school on finding a solution to this problem.

New staff: We are also delighted to welcome two new members of staff: Mrs Deacon who is our new School Business Manager and Miss Neill who is the new Teaching Assistant in the Silva Class with Miss Cox. They have both had a lovely first week and are very much enjoying being part of the Henhurst Family!

Dates for your Diary: Please see dates below for events that are coming up this term. We are still hoping to hold all the events outlined but as ever we will await what the current climate is at the time.

We are very much hoping to add to our dates with school trips which we haven't been able to do due to COVID but again, we will have to see how things improve over the next few weeks and months. It would be wonderful to restart these!

An opportunity to meet an author! On **Thursday 27th January**, our very own resident author Jacqueline Theodosi (Stavros' mum) is going to come in and chat to the children about how she wrote her first book, what was her inspiration and how did she go about the writing process. If your child has bought a copy of the book and would like it signed by the author, please do bring it in on the day, ensuring it has a label/post it note on to show who's it is. If you haven't yet had a chance to buy a copy and would like to, please visit:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1913794326/ref=cm_sw_r_em_apg_glt_i_FZ88GCREBH64N9825789

Date	Event	Additional information
Tuesday 25 th January	Parish Council meeting held in school hall	6:30pm in the school hall.
Wednesday 26 th January	Friends of Henhurst meeting	6:30pm All welcome - please come and share your ideas or share a cup of coffee!
Thursday 27 th January	Author visit: Jacqueline Theodosi 'When I grow up: Dinosaurs'	1-3pm, children can bring their copy of the book to be signed if they would like to.
Tuesday 1 st February	Year 1 Phonics Check Parent Information Event	6pm via Zoom. Invites sent out a week before the event.
4 th - 11 th February	Children's Mental Health Week & the launch of 10 Good Deeds in 10 Days event	Events to be organised throughout the week, more information nearer the time.
Tuesday 8 th February	Safer Internet Day	Events to be organised, more information nearer the time.
Tuesday 8 th February	Kamkwamba Class Assembly	9am in the hall - all parents/carers of this class welcome.
Monday 21st February-Friday 25th February - Half Term		
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day	Children to dress up as a book character for the day.
Monday 7th March	INSET DAY	Children not in school.
Tuesday 8 th March	Packham Class Assembly	9am in the hall - all parents/carers of this class welcome.
Friday 18 th March	Red Nose Day	Children can wear their own clothes for the day - £1 to charity.
Wednesday 23 rd March	Mothers' Day Lunch	12pm Mums are cordially invited to join us for lunch. This will be dependent on COVID19.
Tuesday 29 th March	Parent Consultation Meetings	3-5pm appointments will be scheduled nearer the time.

Thursday 31 st March	Parent Consultation Meetings	4-6:30pm as above.
Tuesday 5 th April	Silva Class Assembly	9am in the hall - all parents/carers of this class welcome.