

Friday 4th February 2022

Message from Mrs Hopkins:

Dear Families,

I can't believe we are already in February, although I think a lot of us are quite happy to see the end of January that brought such a rise in COVID cases affecting many of our pupils, parents and staff. It has been an exceptionally busy and challenging time when we've had so many staff off, of what is a relatively small staffing team. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time if things haven't gone as smoothly as usual and also a huge thank you to the staff who have all been here, there and everywhere ensuring all classes were covered so that none had to go to remote learning. We have been able to keep it pretty much business as usual which I am so happy about.

We are still getting cases every week but it does seem to be plateauing somewhat. Please do continue to be as vigilant as you have been and remaining cautious. This has hugely helped the situation.

The children continue to enjoy the Topics they are learning, and I am constantly amazed at how their knowledge bank increases. Only yesterday, Mia from Year 3 was telling me all about Sutton Hoo with such detail about the events there. I certainly learnt a lot!

We have lots of events planned such as our first class assembly in years and our Mothers' Day lunch which we are still hoping to host so please read on to find out more as there is a slight change to the dates for the Mothers' Day lunch.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mrs Hopkins & The Henhurst Ridge Family

Year 3 'The Kamkwamba' Class assembly: This is scheduled for **Tuesday 8th February at 9am.**

After much consideration, we are still going to go ahead with this event but we ask that you please do the following to ensure we can keep everyone safe:

- Only 2 people per family to attend
- Wear masks unless medically exempt
- Do a Lateral Flow Test on the morning of the event and if positive, please do not attend
- Socially distance throughout the event

As you will be dropping your child off between 8:30 & 8:45am and the assembly doesn't start until 9am, the Friends of Henhurst will kindly be providing refreshments in the hall before the assembly starts for a small donation. Please ensure your car is parked responsibly as it will be parked for longer than usual. The assembly will last about 20 minutes. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

Children's Mental Health & ECO Week: As part of Children's Mental Health Week, we are going to be completing activities to help children have and maintain good mental health. One such way is being outside and so on Friday, Mrs Clemens (our friendly next-door neighbour & school volunteer) will be coordinating an Eco Day with all classes as they spend time outside completing an Eco orienteering activity as well as lots of other things throughout the day and week. Please follow us on Twitter to find out more: @henhurstidge

COVID19: As mentioned in the opening message, cases do seem to be plateauing, but we are still getting new cases weekly. Please continue to be as vigilant as you have been to symptoms and getting a PCR for your child if needed. When we notify you that there has been a case in your child's class, please do carry out a Lateral Flow Test on your child for 7 days as many of the children are asymptomatic so this will help identify anymore cases. We are still asking any visitors into school or into the main entrance to wear a face covering as an additional precaution and staff are still wearing face coverings in communal areas. Thank you as always for your continued, brilliant support that we have received - it is greatly appreciated and has absolutely made a difference in the number of cases in school!

11B411 - 10 Good Deeds! As part of being a REAch2 school, we take part in the 11B411 initiative which sets out 11 adventures that children will have before they are 11. Our parents in Year 2 & 3 will be more familiar with this as pre-Pandemic, this was very much a feature of our school. Obviously completing such activities as well as school trips has not been possible. With us slowly returning to normal, we will be relaunching this as well as scheduling class trips in. Our first whole school adventure is 10 Good Deeds. Over the coming 2 weeks, the children will be taking part in 10 Good deeds that they will be carrying out. Please do all you can to support them with this so they can earn a pin badge to go on their 11B411 lanyards. To find out more, please click on:

<https://www.reach2.org/11-before-11/>

Mothers' Day lunch: This is scheduled for Wednesday 23rd March and again we really want to try and host this event. We are expecting a high attendance at this event and so thought it would be sensible to put on an additional day so that we can keep numbers low, thereby keeping everyone safe. Similar to the Christmas performance, we are going to group the classes for this: **Wednesday 23rd March: Reception & Year 1 Mums (Attenborough, Thunberg & Silva Class)** and an additional date of **Wednesday 30th March for Year 2 & 3 Mums (Packham & Kamkwamba Class)**. Mums with siblings, please attend only one lunch whereby you will be able to sit with all your children. If you could attend the older siblings one this would be helpful. Before half term, a letter will be sent out asking if you will be attending and requesting payment for the lunch. If you can't make the date that has been allocated to your child's class, then please book in on the other one but where possible if you could stick to your child's class that will help us keep the event as safe as possible. Nursery Mums - there is a Stay & Play session for you on Wednesday 23rd March, please see your key dates for more information and Mrs Blackshaw will be in touch shortly about this event.



The Friends of Henhurst: The Friends of Henhurst met last week to discuss what events they could put on for the children for the rest of this term. Information will be released shortly of what they have planned. The next meeting will be advertised soon, we hope you can make it!

New pupils: We are delighted to welcome a new pupil into Year 1 and into The Thunberg Class. Zaid joined us a few weeks ago and has settled in so well! A warm welcome to him and his family.

Parish Council meeting held on 25th January.

We hosted the Branston Parish Council Meeting here 2 weeks ago and one of the main items on the agenda was school parking around the estate. Please see an outline of the key issues raised and ways forward. If you would like to be part of the working party, please do email the Branston Parish Council Clerk, Kay Lear at: clerk@branstonparishcouncil.gov.uk

- There was a good attendance from residents and one parent, all of whom were given ample time and scope to air their views.
- There was general agreement that both residents and parents have to work together to aim at achieving a solution to the parking problem.
- There was an understanding that the school building is owned by Staffordshire County Council, and that REACh2 lease the building and aren't in a position to alter the traffic flow arrangements currently in place - this is Staffordshire County Council's responsibility.
- Both residents and parents understand the problems associated with the parking and, while some individual problems were aired, there was a particular concern about the safety of the children both now and in the future as the number of pupils increase.
- Concern was raised about the possible inability of Emergency vehicles and delivery vehicles being able to gain access to properties should the need arise when parents are dropping off or picking up children.
- Concerns were raised about the safety of elderly residents on the estate that may need wheelchair and mobility access via pavements that are blocked due to cars parking on them.
- It was agreed to set up a Working Group consisting of interested parties (i.e., parents, residents, school staff, police, local and county councillors and road safety personnel) to get together with the aim of putting a coherent plan to the relevant parties in Stafford to sort this problem out, both now and for when the school is at full capacity.
- A zoom meeting is planned for some time in February to move this forward.

Dates for your Diary: Please keep your eye on the dates below so that you don't miss out on any information sessions or key events. We have been able to put another Phonics Information session on for later in the term for those parents unable to join us at the one last week. Nursery parents, please see the dates that were shared with you at the beginning of the academic year as they may differ slightly from the main school ones. Many thanks.



Date	Event	Additional information
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	
Tuesday 8 th February	Kamkwamba Class Assembly	9am in the hall - 2 adults per child 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 - 2 adults per child welcome.
Monday 14 th March	Additional Year 1 Phonics Check Parent Information Event	6pm via Zoom. Invites sent out a week before the event.
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 Reception & Year 1	12pm Mums are cordially invited to join us for lunch.
	Nursery Stay & Play	Please see Nursery dates for more information.
Tuesday 29 th March	Parent Consultation Meetings	3-5pm appointments will be scheduled nearer the time.
Wednesday 30 th March	Mothers' Day Lunch Year 2 & 3	12:15pm Mums are cordially invited to join us for lunch.
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.
Monday 11th April - Friday 23rd April - Easter Holidays		
Week beginning Tuesday 3 rd May	Events to celebrate Eid-Al-fitr	More details to follow.
Thursday 5 th May	RHSE curriculum parent viewing session	2pm, more details released nearer the time.
Tuesday 10 th May	Thunberg Class Assembly	9am in the hall - all parents/carers of this class welcome.

Week beginning 16 th May	Walk to School Week	Events to be shared nearer the time.
Tuesday 24 th May	Attenborough Class Assembly	9am in the hall - all parents/carers of this class welcome.
Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June		
Wednesday 15 th June	Fathers' Day Lunch	All Dads invited into school to have lunch. 12pm.
Week beginning 27 th June	Year 1 Phonics Check week	Information about this shared at the meeting on 1/2/22 & 14/3/22.
Friday 1 st July	Annual reports sent home	
Friday 8 th July	Sports Day	All afternoon.
Monday 29 th June	Annual reports sent home	
Monday 11 th July	Parent drop-in session regarding annual reports	3:30-4:30pm
Thursday 14 th July	Move up Morning!	Children spend the morning in their new class!
Friday 15 th July	Reserve Sports Days in case it rains	All afternoon.
Wednesday 20th July	INSET DAY	Children not in school.
Wednesday 20th July - Tuesday 6th September 2022 inclusive - Summer holidays for children.		
Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th September: INSET DAYS, Children return on Wednesday 7th September.		