



Hempsted Church of England Primary School

September 2020 Newsletter



Monday 7th September 2020

Dear Parents, Governors and Friends of the School,

Welcome back!! We are so pleased to be fully open again and it has been fantastic to see our pupils and parents walking back down the drive. Despite a few alterations, the school once again has a 'buzz' and there is plenty of energy around the place.

Please read this newsletter carefully, and I look forward to working with you all as we begin another academic year.

Current Arrangements

The reopening on Wednesday went well. Although we ended up with quite a lengthy queue down the road, the operation of getting children safely into school went smoothly. We were really pleased to see how positive the children were and there was certainly a feeling of relief amongst the parents and staff. Pick-up arrangements seemed to work equally as well and by Friday there was virtually no queuing at all.

Therefore, for the time being, we will keep to the arrangements which are:

- Years 1, 3 and 5 must be dropped off between 8.40am and 8.50am.
- Years 2, 4 and 6 must be dropped off between 8.50am and 9am.
- If you have a child in Y1/3/5 and another in Y2/4/6, then drop **both** off at 8.50am.

*****Please do not drop your child off before their designated time*****

Symptoms in School

All of us need to be vigilant to the symptoms, and ensure that we follow the guidance. As I am sure that you are aware, the current symptoms are:

- A new continuous cough
- A raised temperature
- Loss or change in taste or smell

If your child, or anyone in the household has these symptoms, you should isolate and get tested. If the test is negative, and your child feels well enough to come to school, then they may return. **If your child receives a positive result, please immediately email c19alert@hempsted.gloucs.sch.uk so that we can make the appropriate arrangements.**

Remember, everything that we are doing in school is about reducing the chance of the virus passing through the school community. The more careful we are, the less likely it is that we will have to lockdown – I don't think any of us want to return to home-learning again!

However, don't forget there are other contagious illnesses out there so please don't send them if they have anything that may be passed on to others.

It is also timely to remind you that in the event of your child having sickness and/or diarrhoea, they must remain off school for **48 hours** after symptoms have passed.

Staffing – Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

For those of you new to the school, the SLT consists of Mr Waller, Mr Davis and Mrs Middleton. As well as teaching, Mr Davis has some non-contact time dedicated to his school leadership role. We work closely with the staff, governors, pupils and parents to try to make our school the best it can be. We aim to be as open and approachable as possible, and welcome any parent who has any constructive comments about how we can improve the school for the benefit of the pupils and the community.

Staff Leaving – Staff Joining!

Earlier in the summer term, our caretaker, Mr Joe Lamb, left us to pursue a new career. We wish Joe well in his new venture. Our new caretaker is Mr Andy Smith. Andy is a parent of the school and was even a pupil here a few years (!) ago.

We have also said goodbye to lunchtime supervisor, Mrs Louise McLarney. Lou has taken up a role as a teaching assistant at a local secondary school.

Mrs Heidi Stephens has added to her role within the school. As well as continuing her lunchtime supervision role, Heidi is now working as a teaching assistant in the Reception classroom. Also joining the Reception team as a teaching assistant, is Miss Sarah Cridland who has joined us from Belmont School.

We wish all of these staff the very best of luck in their careers.

Hot Lunches?

During the summer holidays, we have completely refurbished the school kitchen. The new equipment installed is much more practical for both staff and pupils.

At the moment, we are only providing sandwiches as we wait for the finishing touches to be made in the kitchen. We will be moving back to hot dinners as soon as we can and will let you know as soon as you are able to order them.

Our Expectations

The start of the school year is always a good time to revisit the school 'Golden Rules'. The staff and children wrote these together. We believe that they are good rules for life and we refer to them throughout the entire school year. The Golden Rules are:

-  We always tell the truth
-  We treat everyone with compassion and respect
-  We listen to each other
-  We try our best and persevere
-  We look after our world

Each class also has its own set of class rules, written by the class, for the class. Children are taught that rules are there to keep everyone safe and happy.

Value for the Term

Our value for this term is 'Thankfulness'. In our Collective Worship, we will be exploring the value of thankfulness through Bible stories, readings and drama. We will look at quotes that get us thinking such as:

"It is not happy people who are thankful; it is thankful people who are happy." (Anon)

"Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day." (Alice Morse Earle)

"When eating a fruit think of the person who planted the tree." (Vietnamese Proverb)

We have all faced challenges recently, so we will be encouraging the children to reflect on their day and remember the good things!

Communication

If you're new to the school, and even if you aren't, please remember to read each newsletter carefully. The newsletters will aim to let you know what the classes have been up to, and inform you of any dates or other information that you need to know. As we are currently limiting the amount of things that go home between school and home, the newsletter will be published on the school website and you will receive a text to make you aware of it.



In addition,

- Our curriculum outlines provide a synopsis of your child's learning that will take place during the term ahead. Please take time to read them – there may be some activities or visits related to the topic that you could do with your child. Please note that we are no longer sending paper copies of these home – they are available via the class pages on the school website.
- If you need to speak to us, the administration office is staffed from 8am until 4:30pm. The telephone is usually answered but if the telephone is in use it automatically goes to answer phone. Please leave a message, as these are checked regularly throughout the day. Messages for staff will be passed on.
- Emergency messages (eg school closure) and reminders are sent through a text messaging service. Please ensure that you keep contact numbers up-to-date.

It is not possible to speak to teachers on a morning. Members of the SLT and pastoral team are on duty but may be busy with supervising the children entering school. If you need to speak to them, you may have to wait until the 'drop-off' has quietened down!

Inhalers

A number of pupils keep inhalers in school. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that these are in date. We have noticed a few are not and will endeavour to let you know.



Bumped Heads

Still on the theme of communication, if your child receives a bumped head during the day, we will always aim to let you know. In most cases, this will be verbally either at pick-up time, or by telephone. Usually this is simply to make you aware, just in case there are any delayed complications. As an additional safeguard, we may send you a text message as well, just in case we don't get to speak to you later. Please don't be alarmed by the message!

If your child has received a bumped head, then we ask that you look out for the following symptoms:

- headache
- nausea (feeling sick)
- dizziness
- blurred vision

If your child develops these, you should then seek medical advice.

In the case of more serious knocks to the head, we will contact you straight away.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have changed your contact details – address, mobile numbers, land lines, emails – it is vital that we have that information. Please ensure that you let us know!

Lunch Boxes

It is always really good to see healthy snacks and balanced lunches. The children are very knowledgeable about the importance of '5 a day', a varied/balanced diet from the different food groups and not too much sugar or fat.

We have a few rules about what should be provided. Please note:

1. We expect that children will be given food that they normally eat.
2. We do not allow sweets, fizzy drinks or chocolate bars.
3. Children must ask to leave the table and we expect all/most food to be eaten.

***Just to remind you that **nuts (including foods containing nuts) are not allowed** in school because we have children who suffer from allergies. ***

All Key Stage One (Reception, Class One and Class Two) children have a piece of fruit provided for their snack through the government's 'Free Fruit and Veg Scheme'.

All Key Stage Two children need to bring their own fruit for snack time.

Hair and Jewellery in PE

One pair of plain stud earrings is allowed. Earrings should also be removed for PE. If your child is unable to remove their earrings, then you must send them to school with a roll of micropore tape. Also, if your child has hair that obstructs their view when they look down, then this must be tied back. Please send in a hair bobble.

Thank You to the Leavers!

A huge 'Thank you' to the parents of last year's Class Six who very kindly gave us a new chair. However, it's a very special chair in the shape of a hand. They have called it the 'Helping Hand' in recognition of the helping hands that their children received during their time here. They have also given us 30 colourful outdoor cushions. The chair will be used as part of a new seating area for the children in the Nature Area.

As well as this, they also gave each member of staff a present, and made a donation to the Friends. Amazing generosity, and we really appreciate what they have given us!



Hello to the New Starters! Reception 2020

Our new Reception children begin in small groups this week and on a part-time basis until home and school believe they can sustain the full school day with all its social, emotional and academic demands. Our expectation is that most of the Reception children will be full-time starting from Monday 28th September.

Local Lockdown and Home Learning

The range of measures in schools and other places are designed to reduce the chance of illness spreading. However, the reality remains that a local lockdown is possible. I would urge all parents to have a plan for child care in place just in case a class has to close.

If a lockdown was to occur, home learning would be issued again, and this will usually involve daily contact from the teachers. We will be using Microsoft Teams for this and are currently trialling it to ensure that both staff and children are comfortable with using it. Each child will be receiving their own school email address so that they can access Teams and instructions will be shared with parents.

School Garden Makeover..... Mrs Knight's Summer Project!

Over the holidays, the School Nature Garden has had a complete makeover. The dried up pond has been stripped back to its original pond liner and is now refilled with rainwater and has many new residents living there – frogs, dragonflies and pond skaters. After weeding the whole area, membrane and gravel have been laid to improve the space for the children and hopefully become easier to maintain. A seating area for children, made from pallets, allows the garden to become another outdoor learning area for all to enjoy. Thank you to all those Hempsted residents who have donated stones, paint, pallets, plants and especially to Jim Price (pallets/paint) and to Heidi & Terry Cawkwell, who have spent many man hours helping me with this project. The School Nature Garden now has many different areas to explore and I am very proud of what we have achieved ready for this academic year. Have a look next time you pass by Can you spot the 'viewing' hole in the hedge?

POND BEFORE



PALLET SEATING



POND AFTER!



Breakfast and After-School Club

Thank you to everyone who let us know their requirements for Breakfast and After-School Club. We have to operate with reduced capacity and have therefore created an infant and a junior section. Each one has a maximum 'bubble size' of 15, and both are full. If your child has been allocated a space, you should have received an email from Mrs Subryan. If you need to use the club in the future, it is best to register and ask to go on the waiting list.

And finally...

I am delighted how smoothly the new term has started, especially given the measures that we are all having to adhere to. There have been a number of things that we have had to implement to keep us all safe but I can assure you that once the children are in school, the atmosphere is still happy, relaxed and busy! Long may it continue!

Yours sincerely,



Mr Waller