



Hempsted Church of England Primary School

October 2020 Newsletter



Friday 9th October, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the October newsletter. School is now fully up and running, and despite some restrictions we are continuing to find ways of doing things so that school life is as normal as possible for the children (and staff!).

As you will know, we did have to close our Year 5 bubble due to a confirmed case but I'm pleased to say everyone seems to be back and healthy, and there were no other linked cases within school. What a relief!

However, we all need to be vigilant, keep our distance and follow the rules – whatever they may be at the time!

Covid Update

The first 3 weeks of term were a little 'chaotic' for us all due to the emergence of a common cold spreading through the school community. This understandably caused concern for parents and teachers alike. This was common across a lot of schools both in the city and further afield. Given the lack of testing capacity across the country at the time, it was challenging. The situation with the usual 'colds' seems to have settled back down but I'm sure will re-emerge at some point.

We have a number of resources on the school website which will support you if your child becomes unwell and I have added one of them to the back of this newsletter. The important thing to emphasise is that if anyone in your household is symptomatic then the whole household needs to isolate whilst the symptomatic person gets tested. If this test is negative, then the household can go back to normal.

I am very pleased with our current attendance figure. It is 96.6% compared to 97.9% this time last year. Considering the 'colds' going around the school and the need to follow the guidelines, I think this is pretty good. It is one of the first things OFSTED will look at so thank you to everyone for their efforts in keeping our school community healthy and at school!!

Beginning and End of Day Routines

This seems to be going smoothly. It is important to keep to your times though as some pupils are arriving before their allocated drop-off time. Remember, if you are dropping a child off in the 8.40 to 8.50 slot and another in the 8.50 to 9am slot, please arrive at 8.50am.

At the end of the day, more and more people are coming onto site before they need to as they are following the Playgroup parents into the grounds. We can still have children moving outside before 3pm so if you are picking up children from the school, please **arrive from 3pm**. At this point the gate automatically unlocks. If it is locked, please wait.

Admission September 2021

Paper work for primary / infant admission will be posted out by mid November 2020. If you have not received a pack by December you will need to contact Admissions and Transfer Team at Shire Hall Tel: 01452 425407

Schools are being asked by the Local Authority not to hold Open Days at the moment so we are considering how best to showcase the school in a virtual world!

Does your child have a diagnosis of asthma?

If your child has a diagnosis of asthma, then they should have their inhaler in school at all times. Please also be aware that the school has an emergency inhaler. This is for emergency use only, when the child's blue inhaler is not available. However, we are only able to administer the school inhaler IF you have signed and returned a completed permission form. If you would like a copy of this form, please email the office. Please note, your child MUST have a diagnosis of asthma to be able to be eligible for the school emergency inhaler.



Parent/Teacher Consultation

It is not possible to hold face to face meetings this year. Therefore, we will be holding telephone appointments this year. These will take place in the week beginning 9th November. The telephone appointments are for a maximum of 10 minutes, so anything that requires a lengthier discussion, will need to be arranged for another time.

We are again using the School Money website to book appointments this year. This should make it far easier for you (and the teachers) to arrange the appointments. You will receive a text to advise when the booking page is live.

Breakfast and After School Club

These have now reopened. To operate safely, we have had to create smaller bubbles to keep the groups of children attending consistent. I must ask that if your child does have a place, that you do use it as much as possible so that the club remains financially viable. We do still have some space in KS1 and KS2. If you do want to enquire about a place, or reserve a place on the waiting list, then please contact afterschoolclub@hempsted.gloucs.sch.uk

For those of you already registered for the club, you can now book up sessions until the end of Term 2.

Ordering School Lunches

We are delighted to be serving hot meals again. A big thank you must go to Zoe and Emma in the kitchen for making this work!! Please can I ask that you book your children's school meals in advance. On one day last week, we had 30 children who did not have a lunch booked and this makes it difficult for the kitchen. School meals are ordered using the School Money website.

Absence

If your child is absent, please ensure that you phone the office on the first morning of your child's absence and on every subsequent day of their absence.

Lost Property

Even though the children aren't spread through the school like they use to be, they still lose things. Please can you check to see if your child's clothes are labelled!

And finally... Remote Learning!

We were just in the final phases of developing our remote learning plan when the first class had to go home. We are pleased to say that it seemed to work well. Remote learning is what is expected if a class or group have to isolate. It isn't like it was before the summer break when home learning was offered but there was no way to enforce that the children actually did it.

This time, unless it is the teacher who is ill, the teachers will be making daily contact with the children through Microsoft Teams. Each session will contain some direct teaching as well as showing the children to where their daily tasks are. The children will be shown how to send work back to the teacher. Unless a child is ill, we expect every child to engage with this.

All of the junior children have received their passwords and logging-in procedures. The infants will be receiving theirs soon.

Please can you let us know if you have difficulty accessing appropriate computers or tablets and we will try to help. Schools can access various IT schemes through the Department for Education but they have set eligibility criteria.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Waller

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<u>OCTOBER</u>			
Thursday	15 th		Vision screening for Year 1
Saturday	17 th		Grammar School Test Day
Wednesday	21 st	2.30pm	School Harvest Festival (details to follow)
Thursday	22 nd		Non-uniform day for the Friends (details to follow) End of term for pupils
Friday	23 rd	All day	INSET day. School closed to pupils
<u>NOVEMBER</u>			
Monday	2 nd		Start of Term 2
Tuesday	10 th		School Photographs (Individuals and school siblings)
Thursday	12 th	All day	Flu immunisations
<u>DECEMBER</u>			
Friday	11 th	All day	Non-uniform day for the Friends
Friday	18 th	All day	Christmas Jumper Day End of Term 2 – please note the 1 hour earlier finish. Reception 2pm; Y1/3/5 2.05pm; Y2/4/6 2.15pm

Would you have kept your child off school before Covid?

Yes

Keep your child off school

No

Do they have:

1. A new continuous cough?
2. A fever (high temperature over 38°C using a thermometer)?
3. A complete loss or change of smell or taste?

Yes

Keep your child off school and at home.
Ring 119 or go to www.gov.uk/coronavirus to order a home test kit.

You cannot access a test through 111 or 999. Please do not go to A&E.

Your child and your household must self-isolate until you have the result of this test

No

Does your child have an underlying chronic medical condition such as cystic fibrosis?

Yes

Speak to their specialist team about testing criteria if you haven't already spoken to them or had a letter in the post telling you when to act

No

Children who are otherwise well with:

- Runny noses
- Sore throats without a fever
- Mild colds

Can go to school as **NORMAL**