



Hempsted Church of England **Primary School** **Summer 2021 Newsletter**



Tuesday 20th July, 2021

Dear Parents, Governors and Friends of the School,

Wow, what a scorching hot week! Too hot I would say, but maybe that's just the northerner in me! Well we have just about made it to the end of term, and whilst we're not unscathed, the end is in sight. The end of lots of things in fact – the academic year, most restrictions and those 'bubbles'. Good riddance.

We've pushed the boat out a bit over the past few weeks against a background of rising cases. We've managed sports days and residentials and most importantly, got some of the Y6 Leavers' traditions done. They have performed their play of 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies' to their parents in the hall. Performing to a live audience was something that they were desperate to do and I'm pleased it could happen. They've also got their Leavers' Service tomorrow. This will take place on the field with the children, their parents, myself and Nikki. I will be very sad to see them leave.

September

There's a few things that we have had to do during the past 16 months that in reflection, have improved things.

One of these is the start of day routine. Rather than lining up at 9am and having 210 children go into school all at the same time, the children have been going in when they arrive. This has meant that the start of the day is much calmer, the children can get themselves organised and they are ready to learn quicker.

Therefore, when we start back in September, the following will apply:

- No staggered starts, no one-way system
- Children and parents can enter the site from 8.50am
- The school doors open at 8.50am
- The children enter their classrooms as soon as they arrive – they do not go on to the playground and they must not run around the site.
- The school doors close at 9am, and the school day officially starts. Anyone arriving after 9am must go to the office and sign in using the Entrysign system.
- Parents must leave the site by 9am.

There will be members of staff, including SLT, on duty, but as before please do not engage in lengthy conversations at this point of the day as their focus will be on the children.

This will give us a much calmer start to the day. I don't mind if parents stay on site after their children have gone in because I appreciate that this is a time when you see each other. However, I do ask that by 9am, you have left the site.

The one concern I have is congestion on the paths with people arriving and exiting in that 10 minute window. I think it best to give this a couple of weeks to see what happens; obviously reinstating the one way system would be a solution but let us see what happens.

The school day will end at 3.15pm for everyone. Parents need to collect from the usual areas – for those moving into Y3 this will be the path and grass in front of the school office.

Other changes

Bubbles are gone! The rules around self-isolation of bubbles are being amended, and children will only be asked to self-isolate if they have tested positive, or if PHE declare an outbreak within school.

The school hall will once again be open for PE and lunch, collective worship and school plays!

My understanding is that PHE are removing the face mask rule in and around school. The classes will be able to mix again and we should be able to return to some of the 'vertical' days that we have when children from every year group get to work together.

Obviously, as we are all aware, the infection level is increasing but I get the feeling that schools will be returning to some form of normality. There may be some restrictions around parents entering school etc and I will share these with you once I know.

Extra Bank Holiday

You may be aware that there is an additional Bank Holiday next year to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee. As this falls in half-term, the LA have added an extra day's holiday at the end of the academic year. Therefore, the 2021-2022 academic year ends on Thursday 21st July.

School Lunches

From September 2021, the price of school dinners is rising to £2.40. This is the first time we have raised the price since 2015.

If your child is currently in Year 2, please note that their entitlement to Universal Infant Free School Meals ends, and unless you have registered them for Free School Meals (FSM) you will need to pay. If you would like to check your entitlement to FSM, please search 'FSM in Gloucestershire' on the internet.

And remember, if your child does become eligible for FSM, we can give you a £35 uniform voucher, so please let us know straight away.

Booking Lunches and Breakfast/After School Club

This will continue on the School Money service, and we will text you when this becomes available.

Class Pages

Don't forget to check the class pages on the website for end of year photographs.

DfE Summer Programme

The DfE have produced a website that may be of interest. Go to:
<https://educationcatchup.campaign.gov.uk/>

Continued Pastoral Support

If you need any support over the holidays, Rachel Laughton, our Hempsted Children and Families Worker is available on 07999 481451. You can also contact members of the Parish pastoral Team on 07732 384576.

Contacting us

School emails will not be monitored during the summer holidays. When we come back in September, please can I ask that when you send an email to a teacher, please can you 'cc' the admin@hempsted.gloucs.sch.uk email address as well. This helps ensure that messages aren't missed.

Parental Questionnaires

Thank you returning your parental feedback forms. Amelia-Lily (Y4) performed the draw and I am pleased to say that the winner of a family ticket to the circus is....

Mimi Allison! Well done.

If you are still to return your form, please do so as soon as possible.

Non-Uniform Day

The Met Office has declared a heatwave warning so I am declaring a non-uniform day as it is just so hot. Children do not have to wear school uniform tomorrow and can dress in their own clothes. However, given the strength of the sun, please can we have no bare shoulders and for safety, no open-toed sandals. Uniform remains an option but I thought the children might like the choice to dress sensibly and comfortably for the weather. There is no money contribution asked for either.

And finally...

Well that was quite a year!

I wish you all a safe, very happy and, hopefully, a continued sunny summer!

Thank you for your support during the year. I look forward to seeing you at the start of the new academic year at **9.00am on Monday 6th September.**

Yours sincerely



Mr Waller

Head Teacher

*******Don't forget it's an early finish tomorrow*******

Reception, Y1 and Y3 will finish at 2pm. Y2, 4 and 6 will finish at 2.05pm.

Keep Reading over the Summer! Join in with Gloucestershire Library's Summer Reading Challenge - WILD WORLD HEROES!!!!

Visit your local library or sign up on line - <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>.



We're so excited to reveal the theme for the Summer Reading Challenge 2021!

Get ready for **Wild World Heroes**, arriving **online** and in your **local library** this summer.

Pack your bags, we're headed for Wilderville! It's a pretty cool place, but there are lots of things that the Wild World Heroes can do to make their town even better for the people and animals that live there.

Join the Wild World Heroes for the Summer Reading Challenge and discover how **you can make a difference** to the environment too.

We're teaming up with **WWF** for a very special nature-themed Challenge that will inspire you to stand up for the planet!

Wild World Heroes will feature amazing books, awesome rewards, and plenty of ideas for taking care of our environment.

Are you excited to join the **#WildWorldHeroes** this summer?