



Henbury View First School

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Newsletter 1 **September 11th 2020**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start my first newsletter of the academic year with a huge thank you to everyone for helping us make the first week back run so smoothly. We have made some adaptations as the week has evolved, but the systems now seem to work which means we can get the children safely into school and out, as well as provide for social distancing. The children are an absolute credit to you and our school; they have taken the new routines in their stride and resumed their learning with enthusiasm and resilience.

I would also like to welcome all our new families to Henbury who have joined the Foundation class and other year groups across the school. Our new cohort has settled brilliantly, and it has been lovely to hear them from my office playing.

Playtimes (footwear)

I'm also very conscious we have been very lucky with the weather. Currently, we have the field timetabled on for Foundation, Year 3 and Year 4 for their playtimes. As we get into the winter months we are still hoping to be able to use the field as much as possible. Please may we ask if you have an old pair of wellies or trainers that still fit please could the children in those year groups bring them into school in a named plastic bag and leave them on their pegs? This will mean if the ground is a bit wet underfoot we aren't going to ruin their school shoes. If we are unable to use the field for extended periods of time we have a second plan that allows us to rotate playtimes on the hard surface playgrounds.

If your child is in Year 1 or Year 2, they could still bring in a spare pair, that way all our children will be able to enjoy being outside for as long as possible and safely.

Staffing

We have undergone some changes over the summer. We had hoped Mr Ward would be back with us, but he found out at the end of August that he had been offered and confirmed as a new recruit with Devon and Cornwall Police Force. This is obviously a new direction for him and I'm sure you join with us in wishing him luck.

Mrs Ward was due back with us before she started her maternity leave, but she has hurt her ankle which means she cannot be in school. We will keep you updated with news of baby Ward who is due in the middle of October!

We are also sadly going to be saying goodbye to Mrs Richards in the office who has decided the time is right for her and her family to retire. Mrs Richards has been an integral part of the office team for many years and will be sorely missed by us all. As soon as we appoint a new colleague, we will let you know. I am delighted that she is with us this half term.

At the end of last term, we advertised for a 6 hour week contract to support Mrs Saunders in her work on wellbeing. We have appointed Ms O'Connell in this role which is great news for us as we can now extend our provision.

Lunchtime Staff

Lunchtime support has been organised as follows:

Foundation – Mrs Willmore/Mrs Connor

Year 1 – Mrs Townsend

Year 2 –Ms Mesterhazi

Year 3 –Mrs Corney

Year 4 –Mrs Ford

Meet the Teacher

I know that this event was referenced by the teachers in their welcome leaflets. After much discussion we have decided that each year group will produce a power point that you can keep rather than a video. It will contain all the information about the classroom organisation and systems as well as refer to key dates and the curriculum. These will be sent out on 21st September along with the children's red word spellings.

Celebrations in School

Normally at this time we would be sharing with you our plans for learning outcomes, Harvest Festival and whole school events. These remain an important part of the children's experience of school and we are thinking creatively on how these events might be shared in the short term. Traditionally we would make a collection for the food bank in Corfe Mullen for Harvest. I have emailed Reverend Burgess to see if there is any way we can support safety in the current climate. I will get back to you with her response.

Blended Learning

We have been part of a blended learning project that we now have in place if we are forced to make changes to the school day under local governing guidance. This involves teachers from across the trust designing and recording a diverse range of subjects and lessons that are developmental and age appropriate. Within Hamwic we will have access to these lessons if the need arises. I am hoping that these will not be needed as the school is once again full, a fun, lively place to learn. However, our plans are ready.

Breakfast Club

From September 14th we will be resuming breakfast club under the supervision of Mrs Taylor and Mrs Hunt.

We have managed this as follows:

Breakfast club begins at 8am. Please access the school from Wyatt's lane from the top small gate by the pond and walk down to the exterior gate leading onto the Tadpoles outside area. We will register the children from there and parents/carers can follow the one way system round past the offices and up the steps back onto Wyatt's' lane.

The school hall has clearly been marked into 5 discreet bubbles which reflect the classroom bubbles. Each year group will have its own table and chairs and be set up for breakfast based on the numbers we have recorded.

We will ask the children to wash their hands on arrival in the top toilets, which will be cleaned prior to Year 4 using them at the beginning of the school day. We have left 2 metres plus between each bubble to allow staff to move freely between each bubble.

Cereal boxes will be labelled with each group and wiped at the end of the session. Toast will be prepared in the kitchen and delivered to each table already spread. All dishes will be put through the industrial dishwasher to ensure it is well sanitised and left for 24 hours before it is used again.

The booking system for the week beginning 21st September is now live and will close at 12pm on Thursday 17th September.

Flu Immunisations

Flu immunisations have been booked in for Monday 12th October. We are awaiting further details from the NHS on the online booking process for these. As soon as we have further information we will send these out.

We will be re-evaluating the risk assessment at the end of next week.

I think that covers the first week back. It just remains for me to extend again my thanks to everyone in the school community for making the first week a success.

If you have any questions, however small, please do not hesitate to contact us either by emailing your child's class teacher or the office and we will get back to you.

I hope you have a lovely weekend,
Kind Regards
Mrs Clarke

