

Friday 10th July 2020



Website: www.hernejunior.com

Email: admin@hernejunior.com

Twitter: [@HerneJunior](https://twitter.com/HerneJunior)

Telephone: 01730 263746

Initial Plans for Full Re-opening of Herne

Message from the Headteacher

The title this week may lead you to believe that we've thought through every aspect of safely re-opening the school when it comes to the first day of term on September 7th. We're not quite there yet, but we ARE in the thick of planning and ordering materials to put in place robust safety arrangements to protect both children and staff. This is our thinking so far:

- **Three layers of bubbles** of children and staff, increasing in provision to reduce the potential transmission of Covid-19.
- **Layer 1:** A Lower School Bubble and an Upper School Bubble. This will effectively split our school into 2 smaller schools where children and class-based staff will not move between these two bubbles at all. Staff will have separate staffrooms and toilets for all people in each bubble will be for their part of the school only.
- **Layer 2:** Year Group Bubbles where teachers and other staff may share some resources very much driven by curriculum needs within each year group. This will include designated extra external sinks for each year group (already being ordered) to allow for extra hand-washing space, thereby increasing social distancing during extra hygiene times. Extra cleaning on a rolling programme will be organised within each year group using many existing staff.
- **Layer 3:** Individual Class Bubbles where there will be dedicated classroom resources, including a class-only reading box (as the library will be out of action for general use), specific staff allocated to these rooms and bespoke arrangements for eating, playtime and cleaning regimes. Therefore, wherever possible, children will not mix between these class bubbles.



- **A broad window of drop-off and pick-up times** of at least 30 minutes so that parents and carers with children in more than one year group or at another school have the flexibility to safely plan your own drop-off and pick-up times within those windows. We will publish the times of these windows next week, as we need to consult with staff first.

- **Wrap-around care** through our school-run Breakfast and Twilight Clubs will be implemented right from the very beginning of term (not mid-September as stated last week). We know this will be really important for our working parents and this is us trying to do our bit to get the country's economy going.

- **After-School lettings and activity clubs** will not take place during the first half-term as we get to grips with the more important task of keeping everyone safe.
- Where we can organise school **local day trips**, we will try to get the help of parents to drop-off and pick-up, which will reduce risks of putting children into large groups for transportation. Exact details will follow with advance notice of any such arrangements nearer the time.

Crucially, as we receive more information from the government and develop our plans, we will continue to advise parents of the details for September in **a series of Flyers over the next two months**. There will be a Flyer on Friday 17th July, Friday 24th July, Friday 28th August and Friday 4th September. I have received a great deal of feedback about the high quality of our communications during Lockdown and, it is my hope that parents will be reassured by the extent to which we want to have your support for what will be a significant challenge to all schools in the new term.

To this end, it would greatly help me if you could email in your questions on our admin@hernejunior.com email so that we can answer your concerns as they occur to you, ideally before Wednesday 22nd July. I cannot promise to reply to you individually, but I will try to address every question through a **Frequently Asked Questions** section on our website (more details to follow next week). I will also produce interim updates and breaking news on our Twitter feed. This can also be viewed via our website, so if you don't have Twitter, you still won't miss out.

Breakfast Club (7.30 – 8.30am) and Twilight Club (3.30pm – 5.30pm)

We are very pleased to announce that our provision for before and after school childcare will now be starting on the first day of term (7th September). We really want to support our parents, so we made the decision this week to bring the opening forward to the start of term.

For the first half-term these two clubs will look drastically different and all parents will receive a letter about both club's interim arrangements next week. Our priority is keeping the children as safe as possible, so all changes have safety at the forefront of all of our decisions. We have also reduced the costs for these clubs to help families who may have had their wages reduced or even lost their jobs.



Twilight Bills

Please can we ask all outstanding Twilight bills be paid before the end of the term (Wednesday 22nd July). Unpaid bills may jeopardise any future bookings. If you are financially struggling to pay any outstanding bills, please do give the school a ring (we are always here to help). Thank you.

GOVERNORS' UPDATE

Although the Full Governing Body have not been able to meet together in person since 20th March, nevertheless they are active 'behind the scenes'. Their priority has been and continues to be, supporting the Staff during this most difficult of times. It has seemed that almost every day the Department of Education has published and continues to publish further guidance, rules and regulations. This has meant that there have been very many changes and adaptations over a short space of time.

Governors have a great admiration for the way in which Mr. Markham and his Team have adapted so incredibly well to all the challenges that have come their way. Their focus has been on doing all they can to ensure that every child has the opportunity to continue their education at home and giving the children of key-workers the opportunity of being educated at school. More recently many pupils in Years 5 & 6 have returned to school. Herne School is so fortunate in having such a dedicated staff which has made all this possible.



Since school closed on 20th March, Mr. Markham has phoned me weekly to give updates on the evolving situation. He has 'met' with others Governors in Zoom chats and given them the opportunity to ask questions about the children's education and the ways in which everyone at school is being kept safe.

Governors very much appreciate the way that parents have adapted to the challenge of home-schooling and coping with the added demands and pressures during this time of 'lockdown'. Staff have valued your support. Thank you.

We look forward to September when all pupils will return to school and we can continue life in the next phase of the 'new-normal'. Herne Junior School will continue as a community where every person is valued and we live out our mission of 'Knowing Every Child, Inspiring Every Mind, Achieving Every Day'.

MARY FAIR (Chair of Governing Body)

Uniform available from Petersfield Market

For any parents who have not organised uniform for their children for September, 'Jackie and Julie' has now re-opened at Petersfield Market (Wednesday and Saturday). They have the full range of Herne uniform and equipment (Sweatshirts from £9.50, Cardigans from £12.75, Bookbags £7.25 – are just a few of the many products they keep in stock). The alternative place to order uniform from is School Kit. See their website: <https://www.skoolkit.co.uk/> and also a shop in the Meridien Centre in Havant

Library and Link Books

Thank you to all the families that have returned finished Library and Link books. We have had about 250 returned out of the 1200 that are currently signed out. We would really appreciate any more finished Link and Library Books to be returned (especially from our Year 6 cohort), as Mrs Pitt does an annual stock check over the summer holidays. The collection point is a large plastic box under the front canopy. The front gates of the school are open Monday – Friday 7.00am - 5.00pm until Friday 24th July.



School Reports for This Year

You will be receiving an electronic (pdf) version of your child's school report this year, as opposed to a printed copy. On this report will be comments about your child's personal development, detailed maths, reading and writing information, including an assessment of whether they were on-track, below or exceeding their year group's expectations as of the end of last term (end of March). This will give both parents and the new teachers a good baseline to check where gaps may have developed or where children have successfully continued to learn either at home or in our class groups this term.

You will receive your child's report by email between 13th - 22nd July. If you do not receive anything by 22nd July, please get in touch with us and we can look into it before the end of that final week. 😊

Themes for Next Week

Our staff have been working hard at new themes for next week's home-learning. The themes will be:



Year 3 and Year 4 - YOU DECIDE (free choice week)

Year 5 – The magical world of Harry Potter

Year 6 – A literacy theme about Dracula's Whitby



The Key Worker groups in Year 3 and Year 4 will be following the whole of the home-learning timetable next week.



Cleaner needed

To increase our hygiene provision for September, we are looking for an additional cleaner to join our team. The hours will be 3.30 – 5.30 Monday to Friday. You will be provided with the relevant PPE equipment and your role will be crucial for keeping us all extra-safe when everyone returns to school in September.

For more information and an application form, please pop into the school office or email: admin@hernejunior.com

Transition Meetings – Message from Mrs Marshall (SENCO/ASSISTANT HEAD)

I know that I normally arrange transition meetings for a few of the children at Herne (if they are on the SEND register, find friendships hard, are anxious and for a number of other reasons). This year it is not possible to accommodate the number of meetings we normally do, last year I (along with the teachers) had approximately 40 meetings. If you have any concerns and you are normally involved in a transition meeting, please email me on e.marshall@hernejunior.com

Due to the situation we find ourselves in, I cannot promise I will give a detailed response to you, however, please rest assured that your comments / concerns will be discussed, shared with the teacher and noted. This should help aid a smooth transition, alongside what the staff (teachers and LSA team) are already doing. Please trust us. Thank you.

Lower School Socially Distanced Picnic!

Extra Safety Measures

For all children in Years 3 and 4, we would love to invite you to a dedicated picnic with just your class teacher and the chance to meet your new class teacher for September, who will pop along to say hello too. **This is a school-based transition activity.**



Classes will be split in half and invited in for a one-hour picnic slot. Parents will need to drop off their child for this picnic and collect them later. This is so that we can keep the numbers of people down to 15 children or less in each group. We have put in additional measures to ensure safety with anti-bac hand sanitising gel to be used before eating, children will be sat in allocated positions in their own little area and there will be no sharing of food allowed. Despite these extra measures, we will ensure it is a fun hour with lots of things to talk about and where the children can ask questions about their new year group and meet their new teachers.

If you have not received an email from your class teacher by Thursday 16th July, please email in or give us a ring (01730 263746) and we will follow this up. Although we would dearly like to have more than a one-hour slot, the majority of staff are continuing to teach Key Worker groups over the coming weeks (including before and after the picnics) and are being especially released from their teaching duties to be with their children. 😊

A Message from our Friends at Doodlemaths



In these unusual times, preventing learning loss is more important than ever. We want to support you and your child in any way we can, so we've created our biggest DoodleMaths Summer Challenge ever and made it even easier to take part! According to a study by the University of Bath, just 20 minutes of DoodleMaths a week is scientifically proven to combat learning loss. This inspired us to launch the Summer Challenge which has prevented learning loss in thousands of children.

What you need to do:

Step 1: Log in to the Parent Dashboard and in the Summer Challenge panel, press Register next to your child's name

Step 2: Encourage your child to earn 750 stars (or 600 if they were born after 31/08/13) and achieve a 14-day streak in DoodleMaths

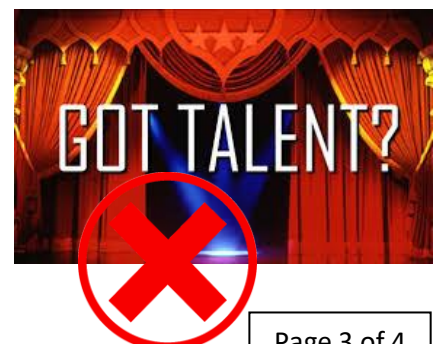
Step 3: When your child has reached their goal, visit the Parent Dashboard and press Submit entry to claim their reward

If you have any questions or need any help, just head to the Parent Dashboard or doodlemaths.com, and click on the green chat icon to find answers or speak with the Doodle Parent Support Team."

More information about the Summer Challenge www.doodlemaths.com/video-doodlemaths-summer-challenge

FOH Refund

As you might have realised, our Herne's Got Talent finals has very sadly indefinitely been postponed. If any parents wish to have a refund on their tickets, please email into admin on admin@hernejunior.com and it will be forwarded to our lovely Friends of Herne team who will organise this. Any ticket money that has not been requested for a refund, will be put into the FoH bank account and used for exciting projects around the school during next academic year.



Read, Read, Read!

Over the summer holidays, we would love every child to read as much as possible because this is one of the hardest things to help children to catch up with once they're back in school. If your child has run out of reading books, do not panic! Our school library is linked to a website called '**Wheelers**' where all our pupils can borrow digital books and audiobooks (all for free). It is a fantastic resource and well worth a visit. To start using the service:

- Go to <https://help.eplatform.co/hc/en-us/articles/115003984988-Downloading-Mobile-Apps> Select which version (Windows, Apple...etc.) you want and let it load. It will then tell you to launch it. It will tell you to find your library. Type in 'Herne Junior' in the long blue bar and 'Herne Junior School' will appear. Click on it. The username and password is the same as Education City. (Enjoy! ☺)
- www.stories.audible.com has a range of free audiobooks for children, including all the Harry Potter books. All books can be instantly streamed, with no login required and no downloading.
- **Oxford Owl** have now launched FREE e-books too! Go to this link: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/books/free-ebooks/>

If your child is struggling to decide what next to read, please take a look at our 'Recommended Series List' which are on our website. We created this list for our pupils and the vast majority are included on Wheelers.

Year 3

<https://www.herne.hants.sch.uk/site/data/files/documents/reading%20lists/EF9C6996870A03B671ADAE1A632B8148.pdf>

Year 4

<https://www.herne.hants.sch.uk/site/data/files/documents/reading%20lists/E6CC4EDB2E80BCDED15881550D604CBC.pdf>

Year 5

<https://www.herne.hants.sch.uk/site/data/files/documents/reading%20lists/C595F24DB5AE13C7DFD0FFAD4BBD7367.pdf>

Year 6

<https://www.herne.hants.sch.uk/site/data/files/documents/reading%20lists/79F53538CCE9B344F317B4D8E6B2768A.pdf>

The Importance of Reading!

