

Knowing Every Child – Inspiring Every Mind – Achieving Every Day

Tuesday 23rd February 2021

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES



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Re-Opening of Herne – March 8th

Message from the Headteacher

In the latest announcement from the government yesterday, a 'Road Map' for the exit from Lockdown was put out to us all. I am pleased that we can welcome back ALL CHILDREN to the school on Monday March 8th. Their health and well-being, including the excitement of the children meeting back up with their friends, will be so good to see. I can only imagine the unrivalled joy in many households, from parents and carers who have been doing an amazing job keeping the learning for the children going, whilst trying to juggle work commitments and the usual chores at home. It has been an incredible collective effort on all of our parts.



I have several staff who have been advised to shield until the end of March, so there will be a little more pressure on the school to cover all of our bases. With the brilliant team of adults here though, we will make this reopening as super-safe as we can and ensure that we keep up the rigorous hygiene routines of hand-washing, wearing masks and maintaining good distances between people where we can.

With over 550 people in the building from March 8th onwards, this is a huge number of people gathering in one place, so our latest Risk Assessment will be refreshed to include some new measures to ensure our safety. If you saw ITV Meridian News yesterday, you'll have heard that I was in favour of a gradual staggered return this side of Easter and, more crucially, that all school staff should be vaccinated. Here is the link to that news item which included Allyson Crew at the infant school and the Crabtree family. ☺ <https://youtu.be/2fyUOmGXIHQ>

If you would like to contact me, you can email me as always on: headteacher@hernejunior.com Apologies in advance if you don't get a swift reply, but I will reply!

Stay Safe. Best Wishes & Good luck! Tony Markham (Headteacher).

Key Points for March 8th

In order to prepare for the full return of the children, here are some key points to keep in mind for the next two weeks:

- Home Learning will continue with full support from teachers and support staff
- Critical Keyworker groups will continue but will not be expanded, as our staffing deployment needs to prioritise Home Learning for the huge majority of children
- All measures in place prior to Christmas will be re-instated
- Additional measures for mask wearing will be highlighted for staff, parents/carers and visitors
- Children will not be required to wear masks
- All staff now take Lateral Flow tests TWICE a week to track any potential cases of COVID-19 and this has been in place since the beginning of January
- Hygiene measures of HANDS-FACE-SPACE must continue with the same vigilance as always
- School uniform will be required from Monday March 8th
- Breakfast Club from 7.30am (£4 a session to include breakfast) will start from 8th March
- Twilight Club from 3.30 until the slightly earlier time of 5pm (£7, including a snack) will also start on 8th March



Positive Case of COVID-19 at Herne Last Week – Test & Trace

In early February, many parents and carers will be aware that we had a positive COVID-19 case in a pupil which had the impact of closing down the Year 4 Critical Keyworker bubbles for a week before half-term. Since then we have had a confirmed case from a member of staff, also in Year 4, last Monday during half-term, which led to self-isolation of those other staff who had been in contact with them. We have brought in some supply staff for this week to help with the absences, but this has the effect of showing that this virus is never too far away whilst infection rates remain high at over 10,000 cases per day.



Our Next Flyer – Friday 26th February

More details for our full reopening and other curriculum reminders, like World Book Day on March 4th, will come out to all parents and carers this coming Friday. ☺