

Friday November 19th 2021



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COVID-19 : Mixed Feelings

Message from the Headteacher

I know many parents and children will join with me in wishing all families well where they have been affected by the latest local outbreak of COVID-19. In conversation with many of these families, it has proven to be a mild illness or no illness at all. However, I am also aware that there are quite a number of people who are very unwell. To my knowledge, there have been no hospitalisations.



It is part of my role to manage this outbreak, in tandem with Public Health England, and the support of our local community. I am also incredibly grateful to Crissy Hodgkinson, the new headteacher at Petersfield Infant School, who has been liaising with me regarding our shared families and managing an even trickier situation at the infant school due to high staff absence. Between us, we are closely monitoring the welfare of the children and their families, including keeping tabs on the return of PCR tests.

My mixed feelings are about getting us all back on-track, whilst being ever-mindful that we need to keep safe. At Herne, we currently have less than 20 children confirmed with COVID-19 at this time, but the numbers are creeping up and Herne has a large number of families awaiting their PCR tests, so watch this space for any further implications because of this.

We continue to run small contained clubs, children are still representing us at sporting events, school trips are continuing, we have moved choir practice to the outdoors (so they can still perform in public later this term) and we have moved some of our internal staff workshops to virtual meetings once again. There have not been any physical assemblies together this term and the children are still eating in their classrooms as before. Staff at Herne are currently getting through about 200 disposable masks on a weekly basis; something I have encouraged them to wear in communal spaces since reintroducing this after half term. Staff tend not to wear masks in class, by way of trying to keep things feeling like normal for the children.

I know some families have wider concerns if they have vulnerable family members at home and I am sympathetic to those circumstances. The best advice I can offer (and many people have already spoken to me during the week) is to get in touch with us if you are in any doubt about what to do. We will try to help and find the best way forward for the children over the next four weeks. If you would like to contact me, you can email on: headteacher@hernejunior.com **Stay Safe & Best Wishes - Tony Markham**

CHILDREN IN NEED – HERNE'S JUSTGIVING PAGE

Thank you so much to the 113 supporters on our JustGiving page and all of the coin donations today. Between you all, we have raised over £900 and we know there is more to come! The money that goes to Children in Need helps so many child-focussed charities in the UK. Here is the link if you'd like to donate over the coming week:

www.justgiving.com/Herne-Junior-School-Herne-Junior-School



Charity Sale on Tuesday 23rd November

Maisie Bishop and Chloe Beckett (both in Year 5) are making home-made **dog biscuits** to go on sale from our Herne Hideout next Tuesday. Each biscuit will cost 25p and they are made of banana, oats and peanut butter. These are not for human consumption. Every penny raised will go to Children in Need and will be added to the school's total. Good luck with the sale girls! ☺

Phoebe Cope at the COP26 in Glasgow - Interview

Hello Phoebe. How did it feel to be on TV? *"It was incredible!"*

How many people attended COP26? *"About 300 in the area where I performed!"*

Who showed up to COP26? *"Boris Johnson, Steve Backshall, Joe Biden and members of the Royal Family."* Have you been on TV before? *"Yes, my choir was on Britain's Got Talent."*

How did you like the experience at COP26? *"It was a great experience seeing all the things that happened at COP26!"* What was your favourite memory there? *"My favourite memory was when I went to see Steve Backshall, who gave a talk about Sharks, after I had performed!"*

How did you get there? *"We took a train and it took 6 hours and 30 minutes."* Who was with you? *"My mum came with me."*

What singing choir are you in? *"The SOS from the Kids choir."*

Here is their song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NclnkyX9aU>

Reporters: Carys McClung & Daniel Masterson (Mimosa Class)



Year 3 Special Gymnastics Sessions

Next week we have arranged with the builders for Year 3 to use the hall so they can have some special gymnastics lessons, to begin to compensate back some of the inside PE sessions they have lost due to the window and door project.

We would like the children to wear PE Kit to school on the following days:

Monday 22 nd November	Fir Class
Tuesday 23 rd November	Oak Class (they will already be in PE Kit as it is their outdoor PE day)
Wednesday 24 th November	Ash Class
Thursday 25 th November	Elm Class



We apologise for the late notice– we have only just managed to secure the hall for these special sessions.

Last Friday Football

Due to us rapidly losing the light, tonight is the last Friday Football Club of the term. The club will begin again in February 2022.

We will publish the exact date in the Flyer in the New Year. Keep practising at home! 😊

Twilight and After School Clubs

We have had lots of requests from parents that their child goes to an after-school club, then comes to twilight afterwards before being collected. This is absolutely fine. However, we sadly cannot give a discount for the twilight bill if parents wish to do this (so you would still be charged from 3.30pm). The main reason for this is due to the sheer amount of requests we have had from parents regarding this, we actually calculated that we would start running a loss at Twilight Club on certain days, which is sadly not sustainable. *We had originally thought we could sustain this, but we cannot run the club at a loss, so reluctantly, we have had to change our approach to this. Sorry (Mr Markham).*

Hampshire Cup Football

Following a comprehensive win over St James Primary (Emsworth) in round one of the Hampshire Cup, Herne faced a difficult tie, away to Freegrounds School in Hedge End. Here is team captain, Oliver McDonald's match report:



It was a superbly intense battle, straight from kick-off. Freegrounds played a fantastic first half of football and were 2-0 up at half time. Freegrounds grabbed a third, five minutes into the second half, as Herne, who were playing wildly, struggled with their structure. Midway through the second half, Herne managed to score. Even though Herne were 3-1 down, with 13 minutes remaining, they didn't drop their heads and kept going. Herne make the vital decision to drop Ollie McDonald into defence and the team looked more organised. Goal after goal came and with 3 minutes left to play Herne had miraculously turned the whole game upside down and came away with a 5-3 win. The next round will be played in February.

Football Tournament Success

We are pleased to share more football success. The 2 teams, made up of a mix of Year 5 and 6 boys entered the recent tournaments at South Downs College, as part of the Havant Sports Partnership. Both teams faced some stiff opposition, but came away winning their respective tournaments. Congratulations to all the players, not only on their great performance, but on how well they conducted themselves throughout the afternoon.

The last tournament of 2021 is next week and sees another team representing the school. Watch this space for the result.

Parent Governor Elections – RESULTS

We are delighted that so many parents put themselves forward for this governor role at the school. We can announce that the outright winner of the election was Victoria Pringle. Thank you to all of the candidates who braved the election and went to great trouble to put themselves in the ring. Well done Vicky and welcome to the team! *Herne Governing Body.*

New Parents & Carers Committee – New Name!

Our new parents and carers committee agreed on a new name for their group this week. They will now be known as The HAFS! This stands for **The Herne Association of Families & Staff**. Thank you to everyone who has come along so far to get involved and we know the committee are keen to get several things in place to help the children at the school over the next few weeks.

Singing Round the Christmas Tree – Outside Community Event – STILL ON!!

On Thursday 16th December at 6pm, HAFS are organising an outdoor event to enable our school community to gather around the Christmas Tree, outside on the upper playground. We intend to involve our newly formed choir and a brass band, and between us, capture the spirit of Christmas before the end of term. To a large extent, this will be weather permitting and COVID permitting, but wouldn't it be fantastic to try and bring back some of these things for the children?

More details will follow nearer the time.



Bags-2-School Collection - Reminder

Herne has joined forces with Petersfield Infant School to arrange a Bags-2-School collection for Friday 26th November. This is where families can recycle their textiles, clothing and other items and for each kilogram the school will get a donation. You can collect a bag from our school office if you have mislaid yours, or just use a normal bin liner. ☺

Winter Discos – Postponed Until Next Term!



It is with a very heavy sigh that we have been informed by Public Health England and the local Health Protection Team that we have to discourage large gatherings indoors, especially if there is the likelihood of excess expelling of air, e.g. singing or exercise in large groups (bigger than a typical class size). This is why the choir are now practising outside and why we have had to postpone our discos until next term. Sorry!

Up-And-Coming Choir Performances ☺

Having moved practices to the outside, we can still look forward to some festive choir performances in our local community! ☺ The choir will be in The Square in Petersfield next Friday from 5.15pm for the switching on of the Christmas Lights (which happens at 6pm). They will also be performing back at The Square on Sunday morning on the 5th December from 10.30am and then singing around our tree on Thursday 16th December at 6pm. Why not come along to see them sing and get you in the mood for the season?

Chipper Needed

We are in desperate need of a petrol chipper due to a number of logs of hazel branches that we have chopped back. If a parent has one we can borrow for a few days or know someone who we can hire it from for a reasonable rate, please let us know. Ideally it would need to cope with wood branches 75mm or larger. If you think you can help or point us in the right direction, please email: admin@hernejunior.com.



Open Library

As a new provision and in our quest to promote reading, on Fridays from 3.30-4.45pm our school library is open for children and parents to enjoy. They can change their link and library books, do homework or just sit and enjoy quiet reading time. Mrs Garforth will be on hand to help. All we ask is that the children must be accompanied by an adult. Why not come along to enjoy a book? If you think you would like to do this, please email p.garforth@hernejunior.com so that we can keep a check on numbers, purely for COVID-Secure reasons.

Anti-Bullying Week - Preventing Online Bullying

As our week about Anti-Bullying ends, we thought we would just give a small number of pointers for parents and carers to look at in order to keep the children safe when they are on-line at home.

- Make sure you are communicating with your child
- Do they know what cyber-bullying is? Do you? <https://www.unicef.org/end-violence/how-to-stop-cyberbullying>
- Give your child strategies to respond to cyber-bullying, e.g. how to report it

We'll provide more tips next week.

COVID-19 Home Learning Support

We continue to have a small number of cases of COVID-19 in school and those children affected have had emails to help parents to support their child with Home Learning, if their child is well enough. We share the timetable for their class whilst they are off and send pertinent links that tie into their class work with BBC BiteSize and the Oak Academy websites. We can also support with devices if this is a barrier to accessing these resources. If you have any queries about this support, please contact the school and we will help. There are also plenty of resources on our website: <https://www.hernejunior.com/page/?title=Children&pid=8>

November		December - Continued	
Mon 22 nd	Oak Class to Selborne – Environmental Detectives	Wed 8 th	Y6 Church Service at St.Peter's (Pupils only at this time)
Tues 23 rd	Year 4 Viking & Saxon Dress Up Day	Fri 10 th	Y5 Church Service at St.Peter's (Pupils only at this time)
Fri 26 th	5.15pm Choir Performing at The Square – Switching of the Christmas Lights	Mon 13 th	7.15pm Herne Association of Families & Staff (HAFS) meeting at the school
Mon 29 th	Nasal Flu Vaccinations – all year groups	Tue 14 th	Y4 Church Service at St.Peter's (Pupils only at this time)
December		Thu 16 th	6pm Singing Round the Christmas Tree at Herne
Wed 1 st	Christmas Post-Box Starts at school.	Fri 17 th	Herne Junior School Finishes at 12.30
Thu 2 nd	3.45 – 5.30 OPEN SCHOOL	January 2022	
Sun 5 th	10.30am Choir singing at The Square.	Tue 4 th	SCHOOL CLOSED – INSET Day
		Wed 5 th	Children return for the spring term 2022

