

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020



Website: [www.hernejunior.com](http://www.hernejunior.com)

Email: [admin@hernejunior.com](mailto:admin@hernejunior.com)

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

Telephone: 01730 263746

## What If You Think Your Child Needs To Stay At Home

### Message from the Headteacher

Parents and carers are on alert for any signs of the virus in their families. I have had personal contact with several people this week who have needed to check with me if they're making the right decision to keep their child at home or to send them to school. Like you, we are all on a mission to make sure your child continues to be at school providing they are fit and well. These are confusing times, make no mistake. However, I thought you'd like to know that we're making sense of an ever-changing situation as each week goes by and, I assure you that I will employ as much of my many years of experience as a headteacher (23 years so far) to guide us through these worrying times. The table below is aimed to give you a bit more guidance about what to do and how we can support your child if they're not in school at any point.

**Keep Safe. Tony Markham (Headteacher)**

Predicted days absent from school	Typical reason	Home-Learning Provision
1 to 4 days	Waiting to get a test or waiting for test results.	A wide range of resources on the Home Learning pages on our website (under the 'Children tab' then 'Home Learning'). There are links to daily lessons on 'Oak Academy' and there are many resources that match with the same learning that will be happening in class.
5 days or more	Staying at home due to critical health conditions, self-isolating due to a positive test in a member of the family or the child OR continued absence due to another COVID-related reason.	We have two allocated teachers to help families and their children: Mrs Marlow: <a href="mailto:L.Marlow@hernejunior.com">L.Marlow@hernejunior.com</a> Mrs Lee: <a href="mailto:S.Lee@hernejunior.com">S.Lee@hernejunior.com</a>  Both of them are available to support the children. They can organise paper-based packs for the children (which can be collected from the school by someone or delivered by a member of staff to your address), listen to children read, recommend resources and be available to help support and motivate children who are home learning for a sustained period.
10 days or more	If there is a positive test at the school that closes a class Bubble or larger sections of the school	If there is a concern regarding either a confirmed case of Covid-19 or, on the advice of the NHS Business Services Authority (then Health Protection Team / Public Health England), the school may be required to close one Bubble (a class) or a Year Group or Upper or Lower School, or indeed the whole school. In an instant, anyone can then access on-line learning (already in place on our website – see first part of the table above) and, within the next few weeks, we have now signed up to 'Google Classrooms' which will give us an increased capacity to support learning at home. Watch this space. Also, in Flyer No.2 on 4th September, we published every teacher's email address, allowing direct contact with your child's teacher where needed.

### Latest Covid-19 Data for East Hants

Perhaps, at this time of rising figures for the rest of the country, maybe it is a little comfort to know that East Hants has a slightly falling trend in cases over the last few weeks. See this BBC link for more info: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51768274>

#### East Hampshire

**6** cases per 100,000 people in the latest week 15 Sep-21 Sep. The average area in England had 21.

**7** cases in the latest week 15 Sep-21 Sep compared with the previous week **-3** total cases to 24 Sep **574**

**83** coronavirus-related deaths registered to 11 Sep

## NHS Test and Trace App

The NHS Test & Trace app was launched yesterday and we are encouraging parents and other family members to download and use it. It is for those aged 16 or over only. See this link for info and to download the App: <https://covid19.nhs.uk>



The app has 6 key features that will help to reduce personal and public risk:

**Trace**– alerts the individual if they were in close contact with a confirmed case

**Alert**– provides the individual with the risk level associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) in their local area, based on the postcode district they enter

**Check in**– allows the individual to check in to locations via the app and official NHS QR codes

**Symptoms**– allows the individual to check symptoms against Government guidance and to get advice

**Test**– allows the individual to order a free test and to receive results and advice via the app

**Isolate**– provides an isolation 'companion', which counts down how many days they have left to isolate and provides links to useful advice

Bluetooth needs to be enabled on the phone as the app uses Bluetooth low energy to anonymously assess the distance, over time, between people who have downloaded it. If an individual with the app tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), the app will ask them to allow those that they have been in contact with to be alerted. If so, the app will then alert relevant individuals if they have been in close contact with a positive case. 'Close contact' is based on an algorithm, but generally means you've been within 2 metres of someone for 15 minutes or more. Individuals are not informed who the positive case is.

It is possible to pause the contact tracing function ('trace') in the app. If paused, the phone and Bluetooth remain on but the phone does not record contacts. Pausing contact tracing is only recommended in 3 situations:

- when an individual is not able to have their phone with them, for example because it is stored in a locker or communal area – this is to avoid the app picking up contacts when the individual is not with their phone
- when an individual is working behind a perspex (or equivalent) screen, fully protected from other colleagues and members of the public, as the individual is considered to be adequately protected from contracting coronavirus (COVID-19)
- in a health or care setting where staff are wearing medical grade PPE (for example, a surgical mask) as these individuals are also considered to be adequately protected

Further information about how the app works is available on the NHS COVID-19 app support page, alongside frequently asked questions for users - <https://covid19.nhs.uk>

## More Government Information for Parents

### Letter to parents and guardians: when you should book a coronavirus test for your child

*The link below takes parents to more guidance on what to do if you think your child needs a test:*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-parents-and-guardians-when-you-should-book-a-coronavirus-test-for-your-child/letter-to-parents-and-guardians-when-you-should-book-a-coronavirus-test-for-your-child>



## GOVERNORS' UPDATE

What a different Full Governing Body Meeting took place at the school this week! It was the first time since February that all the Governors had the opportunity of physically meeting together, but socially-distanced! Ten Governors and our new Clerk – Charlotte Smith – sat at individual desks in the hall and four other Governors joined us by Zoom.

Our first priority was to thank Mr. Markham and all the Staff for the amazing way in which they have responded to all the many challenges of the last six months. We acknowledged that Mr. Markham's communication with parents and the keeping of Staff and Governors updated with the ongoing changes, was and continues to be 'second to none'.

Governors also asked that thanks be conveyed to Peter Castle for his hard work in producing the School Improvement Plan for this academic year. The first target is **'to create a Covid-19 safe environment for children, staff and parents'** and part of the second target is 'to help children to 'catch-up' post lockdown'. Governors have the responsibility of ensuring that these targets are realised, along with the targets from the last academic year's Plan which were 'put on hold'.

It was very pleasing to hear from the Staff Governors that morale among the school staff is high. They are able to see 'positives' in their new working arrangements. It is strange though, that because of the system of 'bubbles' which now operates, new members of staff have yet to meet all their colleagues.

Among the many items on the agenda was the approval of the new Policy Schedule which has been prepared by Jane Bissex who supports senior leaders in the school. We are very grateful that Jane keeps us 'on track' with all the policies which are required by the Government to be 'in place' and monitored regularly.

As always, Governors welcome feedback from parents about any aspect of school life. We can be contacted through the School Office where the Office Staff will ensure that any messages or correspondence is delivered safely and promptly.

**MARY FAIR (Chair of Governing Body)**

## Anti-Racism – Work To Do

An important part of our work during this academic year is to tackle racism and social injustice. We feel it is vital to look at ourselves here at the school and challenge our own thinking on the way that we set about making positive changes in our outlook and, absolutely key to this is the actions we take here at school to help the children and our wider community join with us to overtly be anti-racist. More will follow, as we educate ourselves about the way that racism has woven its way into the very fabric of our society.

## Zig-Zag Lines Outside of the School

We have received complaints from parents that some thoughtless individuals are stopping on the zig-zag lines outside of the school. There is signage to say that you cannot stop on or next to these lines to wait, drop-off or collect a child from the school. This is against the law. Any vehicles breaking the law will be photographed and registration numbers will be passed to the police.

## Missing Library and Link Books

We still have over 350 library books (over £1000 worth) that have not been returned since the school went into Lockdown in March. We would really appreciate every family having a good search at home for any school library books. We will appreciate your support with this.

From now on, we are allowing children to bring one book home from their class bubble box. Books are to be returned to school on Fridays (if the child has finished the book). In Year 6, due to staffing issues, they have asked for the books to be returned on Thursdays (the same day as their homework has to come in). Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.



## Parents can you help?



We have a stretch of ground 38 metres by 2 metres that every winter turns into a muddy strip between our basketball playground and the fence. We are desperate to extend the playground and concrete this area, but with a very limited budget we were wondering if any parents had any contacts who could help. This might mean discounted mini digger hire or good rates of concrete pouring (it is 14 cubic metres). Please let us know if you have any ideas that might support this project. We're happy to do a great deal of the work ourselves, but it would help to have discounted raw materials and equipment. Please email [admin@hernejunior.com](mailto:admin@hernejunior.com) with suggestions. ☺

## Twilight Club & Breakfast Club (B4 Club)

First of all, please can parents make sure they have settled all outstanding debts before half-term. Due to our reduced prices this half-term, we are making a slight loss on these clubs, due to the fact that we need to keep staffing levels high for the safety of the children. **After half-term**, we are intending to extend the hours of this wrap-around care for these clubs with prices being held as low as we can, at last year's pre-Lockdown rates:

**FROM NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**B4 Club: 7.15 to 8.30 £4 per session** (no food can be provided at this time)

**Twilight Club: 3.30 – 5.00 £6 OR 3.30 – 6.00 £10** (A snack & a drink will be included)

We hope that this will help working parents and support the broader economic recovery. All payments will be done by invoicing parents on a monthly basis.

## Government Childcare Vouchers

If you use the Government Childcare Vouchers for either B4 Club or Twilight Club payments please email [admin@hernejunior.com](mailto:admin@hernejunior.com) with your child's name, voucher reference numbers, amount and whether it is for B4 Club or Twilight Club. Thank you.

## Going Home arrangements

If you need to change your child's going home arrangements, please send a note in for the class teacher on the morning of the change. Thank you.

## Year 3 Going Home

Now that we are all in the swing of things for the academic year, if Year 3 parents would like to meet their child instead of picking them up from the classroom doors, please email us with a choice of leaving time of either 3.30 or 3.35. All you need to do is email us during next week if you'd like to do this and then we'll start this arrangement from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Please email [admin@hernejunior.com](mailto:admin@hernejunior.com) with your child's name, class and the chosen time of either 3.30 OR 3.35. We suggest you meet somewhere on our site or near one of the school gates. This will be up to you and the confidence of your child. ☺





## Government Service to Translate Guidance About Covid-19 in Other Languages

The government has now provided a service where other languages are available to see the guidance from them. Please click the links below to access this:

We have translated our [guidance for parents and carers with children in nursery, school, or college in the autumn term](#).

The guidance is now available in the following languages:

**Press CTRL button, then  
click on the link...**

- [Arabic](#)
- [Bengali](#)
- [Chinese – traditional](#)
- [Chinese – simplified](#)
- [French](#)
- [Gujarati](#)
- [Polish](#)
- [Portuguese](#)
- [Punjabi](#)
- [Romany](#)
- [Somali](#)
- [Turkish](#)
- [Urdu](#)



### Don't Forget Your Coats!

As the weather turns towards autumn and more wintery rain and wind, please can you remind your child to bring suitable clothing to school, not least a coat. Despite the weather, it's important that the children still go outside to have a break and this can include times when it is a little bit rainy! Thank you.

## ...And a Final Word from Mr Markham's Colleague in West Sussex!

# Schools are falling into lockdown by default

**With staff and pupils unable to get a quick Covid test, too many classrooms are being left empty**

**JULES WHITE**



**I**t is ironic that just as a raft of quasi-lockdown measures are introduced in an effort to keep schools (and our economy) open for business, a lack of effective planning is threatening an educational lockdown by default.

In recent months our school system has been blighted by faltering and inflexible leadership at the Department for Education which led to U-turns, inconsistent policymaking and, finally, a shattering exams debacle.

Eventually, after all that mess, the Government seemed to wake up to the importance of getting schools open towards the end of the summer holidays, and headteachers were

tinkered with getting every child "back to school" for the start of autumn term. And we did just that. In early September, 99 per cent of schools in England were fully open and pupil attendance levels matched those from previous years.

Just a few weeks on, however, the picture is far less rosy. Official figures from the Department for Education show that the number of schools partially closed due to Covid-19 has quadrupled in a week.

There is no doubt that as our country stares down the barrel once again, our schools and the families we serve are facing problems of huge significance. What is urgently required now is decisive and coherent strategic leadership that can enable schools to function effectively over the coming months.

On the ground, we headteachers are seeing pupils and staff self-isolating in massive numbers. All too often they cannot return to school because they are awaiting (negative) results from a malfunctioning and ponderously slow test-and-trace system. This has already led to staff shortages, partial and full school closures and, most alarmingly of all, increasing pupil absence rates.

Ministers' top priority must

therefore be to ensure that a comprehensive test-and-trace system for schools is introduced without delay. This needs to have the capacity to turn around test results in 24 hours so that those isolating from mild Covid-like symptoms can be given the all-clear to return to school rapidly.

This system must serve school staff and pupils alike. First, to ensure parents are not trapped at home self-isolating with their children and, second, because there is no point having schools open without actually having any pupils in them. If the Army is required to organise drop-in centres across the country, then so be it.

The messages given to parents and the wider public also need to be much clearer. It is a fact of life that children get colds in winter; a runny nose and mild temperature should not trigger mass self-isolation for days on end. That has to be communicated to parents, many of whom are – quite justifiably – eager to err on the side of caution if their child falls ill, and who are in many cases unsure when Covid symptoms differ from those of a common cold. We must show caution, yes, but common sense has to prevail if we are to keep our schools and communities moving.

**READ MORE at  
[telegraph.co.uk/  
opinion](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion)**

If it does become necessary as part of future national or local lockdowns to close schools then technology must be made available not just to the majority, but to every child who requires it. This will necessitate a centrally coordinated approach, and our tech giants must play their part to assist with this as well.

Finally, ministers at the Department for Education must stop clinging on to a forlorn hope that we can muddle through without significant modifications to traditional elements of our overall school system. SATs, GCSEs and A-levels will inevitably require significant reform in time for next summer, and the idea that Ofsted can inspect schools in the usual manner during 2020-21 must be consigned to the dustbin of insanity.

At a time of genuine crisis, there has never been a greater need for genuine and effective collaboration between schools and the Department for Education. Ministers must show the leadership skills to ensure that their stated intention to keep schools open come what may is translated into reality.

*Jules White is chair of Worth Less? and Headteacher of Tunbridge House School*

**STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES**