

Friday 3rd April 2020



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EASTER HOLIDAYS – Keeping Things Going

First of all, the school is incredibly grateful to all of the parents and carers who have been supporting us through their kind emails to staff, messages left on Twitter and other social media sites. Without your support, which keeps up morale amongst our school staff, we would be finding these unusual times much harder.



For the first time ever, the school will be open during the Easter Holidays, free of any charge to the families who have Critical Key Workers. Staff at Herne have volunteered to do this. They do not get extra pay. Many other schools remain fully closed at this time, especially over the Easter break, yet we remain open to support the national effort to minimise the Covid-19 impact on our communities. We are doing this willingly and not because we are being forced to do this. The government has asked schools to do this and we are pleased to be playing our part at this time of crisis.

So many of our teaching staff continue to work tirelessly on our website to support learning at home, the new J2E learning platform (see below) and the communications to parents (which will continue throughout the Easter Holidays too). Many of our support staff are keeping the school scrupulously clean...and then they clean it again and then again. The HC3s kitchen staff continue to feed all families who are entitled to Free School Meals by providing a weekly package of food, including fresh produce, every Monday (see below for more details). Staff at the school maintain social distancing as far as possible, but this isn't easy with children, as I'm sure you're aware! Staff do not have any Personal Protection Equipment, as we cannot source anything for them at this time with priority understandably given to frontline NHS workers, so there is an increased risk to our staff.

One thing I would ask of others in our community, is that you reserve any complaints about anything we appear to be failing to do and send them only to my personal email inbox. That way I can filter the "absolutely must address this" items from the little moans and groans. I wouldn't dare to send a complaint to hard working doctors at this time or to post such things on social media – we're all in this together and I am stating categorically that Herne are doing all we can under the circumstances – WHATEVER IT TAKES! My email address is: headteacher@hernejunior.com **Keep Safe.** *Tony Markham, Headteacher.*

Critical Workers Childcare Service

Government advice to schools where Critical Key Workers are concerned is very clear. Their main advice for us to support workers who are defined as: "Critical workers include NHS staff, police, farmers and food retail workers, who need to be able to go out to work." There is a more detailed list available, and for now, Herne will continue to accept Critical Workers from this longer list, especially prioritising parents and carers who work in the military and other emergency services (e.g. firefighters).



As more of our school staff have gone into self-isolation, we are possibly going to struggle to provide for other Critical Key Workers on the extended list from the government. Where we can, we will continue to keep going, but this may become problematic if weeks turn into months. The government stress the following: "Children with a parent or carer who is listed on the government's critical worker list should be **considered** for a school place." This consideration remains at the individual school's headteacher's discretion and, if that needs to be challenged, there is a special Herne Governing Body 'Covid-19 Emergency Panel' which will review any appeal if you think the headteacher has been unreasonable by refusing a request.

The government also states that: "If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open **only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**"

"Children with at least one parent or carer who is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response can attend school if required. However, many families with a parent or carer working in critical sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. **Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**"

Critical Key Workers – Keeping Us Informed

If you have been authorised by the school to use our childcare service over the Easter Holidays, you will have received a letter this week asking for you to let us know if you need any childcare during the next two weeks. This authorisation lasts for the whole of this period, after which we will review the Critical Key Worker status of individual families. During this coming two weeks, there will be less of a focus on academic things. It is supposed to be the Easter Holidays after all! 😊

If you have received our letter, please can you reply by the end of tomorrow (Saturday 4th April) after which we will allocate staff for the next two weeks. If you're not sure of your shifts, just say so on your return. Equally, if you do not need us to provide a childcare service for your child during Easter, could you please just let us know? We will of course keep your child on our list going forward, so you won't forfeit a place. 😊

Home Learning

As you will have realised, Home Learning is a very different way for your child to learn and you as a parent or carer are no doubt finding this to be a new challenge! Many of the children will be online to access their learning, but we would urge parents to take steps to keep the children safe online. The excerpt below has come directly from the government to help parents achieve this aim. Two very simple measures are 1) Make sure you are able to check your child's Internet history and 2) whilst your child is online, it is best for them to use their device in a shared space in your home, that way, you can easily see what they are accessing.

Government advice in section 6.3 ia as follows: "Where can I go to get support to help keep my child safe online?"

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)



We would also like to state that, where families are following our online timetables on our website, if your child comes to school, they will be doing other things because we have the challenge of a small group of children who are all grouped together covering the whole junior school age range (7 year olds to 11 year olds). We hope you understand that this variation is forced upon us due to the current circumstances. Our teachers, who are on a rota, are working hard to give the children at school activities that help to take their minds off the current situation, even when some of them come to school wearing face masks.



J2E (or J2 Launch)

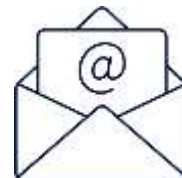
J2E is an online education platform that we use in school as a part of our computing curriculum (mainly in the Upper School). Some of our classes have been experimenting using it as a tool where pupils can upload home-learning work so their teacher/s can see their work and comment on it. After a successful trial, we have decided that after the Easter holiday (from April 20th), we are going to ensure that all classes in Years 4-6 will be monitoring J2E at least once a week and we'll be ready to receive pupil's work.

This is definitely not **compulsory**, as we know many families have limited access to digital devices, however it is just another way that the teachers can help to support, motivate and sometimes help progress our young home learners. Last week's 'opening of the teacher's emails' trial was a great success, with so many of the teachers actually getting quite emotional reading different messages from their class. We are going to carry on offering this service after the Easter holidays. We do ask parents that the children upload work on to J2E **or** parents send a weekly email with photos of work, rather than using both services, as a large percentages of our teachers are also home tutoring their own children, so we do not want them to get overwhelmed with work and messages.

Miss Morphew, with support from Miss Buckle, have produced some amazing help guides about how to login and use J2E and some help videos which are now on our website. They can be found under 'Children' then 'J2E Help Files'. The videos and PDF guides show you how to login, upload work and share with the children's teacher/s (not publish, as this is a blog feature). The children's username and passwords are the same as their Education City username and password, but we recommend pupils change their password when they login (the videos talk you through how to do this). Any login issues please email our lovely ICT Technician Lynne, L.TANDY@hernejunior.com who will be happy to help. If you do not have Microsoft office suite at home (Word, PowerPoint...etc.), J2E has its own word processing and publishing software that is very similar to Microsoft which children can use. On J2E teachers can also comment on children's work and children can reply to this comment without parents having to open and close (like we have asked you to do with the email service), the reason for this is that J2E is an open software platform where all Herne teachers can see each other's comments, therefore safeguarding each other. We have plans to roll it out for our Year 3 pupils as well – so keep an eye on future Flyers. **Though teachers will not be commenting over the next two weeks, pupils and parents are welcome to login and explore J2E.** Enjoy! 😊

Pausing our Email Service

As stated on page 2, we are just pausing our 'Open Teacher Email' system for the next two weeks, over the traditional Easter holiday period, with this restarting on 20th April. The only exception to this, is for Mrs Thakore and Mrs Clack who have both agreed to keep their emails open for one final week (ending on the 10th April), before they officially begin their maternity leaves. On next week's Flyer we will allocate Oak and Palm with new teachers who will be on hand to reply to emails and monitor the J2E work.



Free School Meals Packages

We are delighted to be working in partnership with the lovely staff in our kitchen who are organised by Hampshire's School Meals Service, HC3s. They are providing Free School Meals picnic packages, which are available to all eligible families every Monday. The packages have all of the items inside to make five packed lunches throughout the week. This includes bread, sandwich fillers, fresh fruit and salad, yoghurts, drinks etc. We have managed to contact virtually every family who are on our list to offer this service, but if you think we've missed you, please let Mr Markham know by phoning the school during the day or emailing him directly on: headteacher@hernejunior.com



This Monday, the packages will have 6 days supply to cover the Bank Holiday weekend, then the following week, the packages will be available for collection on TUESDAY 14th April, with 4 days supply to take you to the following Friday. Normal service then resumes from Monday 20th April and continues every Monday for as long as needed.

Our Website Over Easter

Our website will remain as our first port of call for all recommended Home Learning tasks and our weekly timetables will be returning on **Monday 20th April**. All year groups have uploaded some lovely Easter tasks/activities that parents and children are welcome to explore over the next two weeks. Echoing what we said on last week's Flyer, we completely understand that many parents, like many of our staff, are juggling Home Learning whilst still working from home, so the website timetable is just suggested task/activities and we do not want parents to feel pressured to follow every single lesson.

We are passionate that:

- **children keep reading**, listening to stories and talking about reading (this is our top priority);
- **that they keep working on their maths** (if this is through our website's timetable tasks, Doodlemaths, CGP books);
- **and that they keep up their writing** (if this is timetable tasks, writing a diary, DoodleEnglish, Education City...etc.).

BBC Daily lessons coming soon

Beginning on Monday 20th April, **BBC Bitesize** will publish daily online lessons for all ages. They will also have a new dedicated TV channel full of learning content, podcasts on BBC Sounds and loads of educational video on iPlayer.

Check out this link to find out more! <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>



Thank you to Friends Of Herne 😊

For years the school has put up with a very old, crackling sound system and speakers in our hall, a very dim hall projector and a PA System that was borrowed from a member of staff, **but not anymore!** Our wonderful Friends of Herne have provided the money to replace all three and when the children return to school they will be able to enjoy our new sound and vision setup that brings Herne right into the 21st Century. A massive thank you to FoH and to all the parents/children who have supported events to be able to afford this new equipment. It's good for us to see further developments to the school in this turbulent period and this is a fantastic swan song for our departing Chair of FoH, Mrs Naomi Dodd. Both Naomi and her husband Chris will be stepping down in the summer term, so hopefully we'll be able to come back to say a proper goodbye and thank you to them. Fingers' crossed! 😊

NEW WiFi at Herne

Another development we have managed to secure is a brand new WiFi system, which governors have paid for from a new capital grant which came into the school on April 1st. This will enhance the speed of connectivity throughout the school and enable us to continue to add even more devices, assuming schools will continue to get the financial support from central government. Our governors are wholly committed to spending today's money on today's children.

Avon Tyrrell and Ironbridge Residential Visits Update

Sadly, Year 5 children would have been returning from Avon Tyrrell today. We have been in touch with the centre and they are investigating the return of money to parents who had paid for this trip. We have also had most money returned from the commitments we had made for the Year 6 Ironbridge trip. More news will follow when we know more.

Reading Material In Short Supply? “Wheelers”

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:



- Firstly you need to 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! 😊)

DoodleEnglish Special Offer

Some eagle-eyed parents noticed that this appeared on ParentPay this week. DoodleEnglish have offered us a free trial over the Easter holidays for all existing DoodleMaths customers. This free trial will end on 13th April, then parents will have the chance to sign up to DoodleEnglish for 6 months for the bargain basement price of £2. We have already had some parents pay the £2 on ParentPay, so we have listed your names and we will swap your free trial to a 6 month license on the 13th April (this may mean you lose use of the service just on this day). If you have not signed up to our special DoodleMaths offer for 6months for £5, you have one last week to do this, or you can sign up for Doodlemaths and DoodleEnglish for £7. To sign up for either, please go on to ParentPay and pay for the license you want, then email our very busy ICT Technician Lynne on L.TANDY@herne. See has been an absolute superstar. Thank you Lynne.

School Reports Children’s Self-Assessments

As part of our summer term Reports to parents, we always get the children to think about their year at school. We would like to get the children to consider the following questions and send in their answers whilst things are still fresh in their minds.

1. What lesson have you enjoyed most this year – explain what you liked about it?
2. What learning are you most proud of and why? (school subjects e.g. my art portrait, collage, maths, writing...)
3. What aspect of your learning would you like to improve? e.g. I would really like to improve my knowledge of times tables so I can recall my multiplication quickly. Or I would like to include more powerful vocabulary in my writing.
4. What target would you set yourself moving into the next year group?
5. What are you most looking forward to next year?
6. Which club did you enjoy attending the most, explain why?
7. What productions / teams / groups have you enjoyed taking part in?

If they could record their answers and then send them to the relevant teacher(s) after the Easter Holidays, that would be fantastic!



P.E. With Joe Wicks

Don’t forget to join Joe Wicks on weekdays live on his YouTube channel. You can also pick up previous workouts through searching for him on YouTube. Here is the Abberley family doing their bit last week! Great stretches Lucy...in competition with your brother we notice!

This is yesterday’s workout:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faE7889AlaU>



Treefrog Art

Mrs Ostersen (art teacher, parent and friend of the school) is posting art activities for children to do at home every day on her Facebook and Instagram pages. Every post has step-by-step instructions and photos to encourage people to fill their house with beautiful creations. She is using materials that people will already have at home, including up-cycling and recycling. Check out these activities on Facebook @treefrog123 and Instagram is @treefrogart.. She has also started an online gallery, inviting people to create a tree frog and send it to her. Details can be found here: <https://treefrogart.co.uk/100-frogs-a-treefrog-gallery/>



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In order to Follow us, download the Twitter app then look for: [@HerneJunior](https://twitter.com/HerneJunior)

Also, don’t forget to keep up with new things via our website: www.hernejunior.com

Supporting Mental Health

Hampshire has a CAMHS service, which may come in useful for parents as the weeks go by. Here are the details:

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/help/young-people/coronavirus-help-support-and-advice/>

Twitter: [@HANTS_CAMHS](https://twitter.com/HANTS_CAMHS) Facebook: [Fit Fest Hampshire](https://www.facebook.com/FitFestHampshire)