

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020



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## Message from the Headteacher – Can My Child Repeat This Year?

The simple answer is NO! We have been receiving many requests over the last two weeks to see if we can allow the children to repeat the academic year. Although I understand entirely why some parents and carers may request this, this measure would only work with a large number of children if all schools did this. New children due to start in Year R will still need to start school in September. This will mean that children in Year 1 will have to move to Year 2, Y2 to Y3, Y3 to Y4 and so on.

As the three main schools in Petersfield town are full, with many families on waiting lists from areas outside of the town, there is little or no capacity in any of the year groups to allow this measure, even if we wanted to. However, there are some plans that we are exploring, which I think will really support your child from September onwards.

- We are one of only a few schools that has been extending the school day for some pupils who need extra help with reading or maths, opening our doors from 8.10am to 8.40am before the school day and 3.30pm to 4.30pm at the end of the day
- This is a well-established programme which we have called CAP – Compulsory Acceleration Programme – and means that we have many years of experience supporting pupils with additional needs in these extra sessions
- Herne is one of the top 6 highest performing schools in Hampshire with regards to supporting vulnerable pupils over time
- We are looking seriously at once again splitting our current Year 5 classes in **five Year 6 classes**, something we have done several times before. This would mean class sizes of 22 to 25 instead of the usual 30, giving teachers and support staff a greater chance to support children's progress in their final year at the school
- If we can afford to do this, we could bring this measure in from Year 5 to Year 6 over successive years to support all children currently on-roll at the school
- Use additional money from the government which we have been given this financial year to pay for additional teachers over the next academic year to accelerate pupils in ALL year groups with 'Quality First' teaching and interventions in the school day
- The extra money into schools is something I personally pushed for with other headteachers across the country through the 'WorthLess?' group and I have continued to have close contact with this group over the last couple of months to ensure schools do not pay the price for other economic measures to get the country back on its feet. The government and Education Select Committee have been listening closely to our evidence in the last two years – we are confident this will and must continue



If you'd like to contact me personally about any of these action points, my email is: [headteacher@hernejunior.com](mailto:headteacher@hernejunior.com)

**Keep Safe.** Tony Markham, Headteacher.

## Checking In With Families

Our teachers have been checking in with every family during this week either by email or over the phone, just to see if you needed any further support and to check your family are well. We hope you have found this helpful. If we haven't been in touch yet, it could be because our details for you are incorrect. Please contact us if you think you need to update your email or phone number(s). We will continue to do this over the coming weeks and months during the Lockdown.

## Additional Exercise Books

We have had a few parent requests this week for an additional exercise book for their child to work in, because they have run out of room in their first book (impressive). From next week we will have a special box under the canopy in front of the school office, where parents can pick up another book if their child needs one. Please only take one book per child.



## Update on "Maisie Supports our NHS Heroes!"

It was fantastic to see Maisie Bishop from Oak Class in the Petersfield Post this week. She was inspired by Captain Tom to raise money for the NHS and support the national effort to ensure our amazing NHS has extra funds to save lives. Her original target of £40 has been exceeded by 1112% !! Maisie's total now stands at £445 and it's not too late to see if we can push this figure over the £500 mark. Just go to this link and DONATE ☺ <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/silence-maisie>

## J2E and Emails

Wow!!! Our teachers were so excited this week to receive lots of photos of work and lots of fantastic work uploaded onto J2E. It has been so lovely to see all of the wonderful home learning that has been going on. We have had a few questions from parents about what is the school's expectation for how much to share with the class teacher, so we thought it would be helpful to clarify this:

- It would be lovely to have some sort of contact from all families at least once a fortnight, if this is work going on J2E or photos in an email.
- Please do not email the class teacher more than once a week, some class teachers are getting a little overwhelmed from the amount of emails they are receiving and we have them doing other things to improve our curriculum.
- If you are uploading work onto J2E, **can we limit this to no more than 5 pieces a week? Ideally, we would recommend that 2-3 of your child's favourite pieces are uploaded each week, ready to be commented on by the class teacher.** (Some children uploaded over 50 pieces last week, which was fantastic to see, but our poor teachers were struggling to look at everything 😊).

Our expectation of how much work should be happening at home has not changed. We expect the children to keep reading as much as possible, to keep the writing going (using tasks from our timetable, CGP books, DoodleEnglish, BBC daily lessons...etc.) and to keep the maths going (using tasks from our timetable, CGP books, DoodleMaths, Education City, BBC daily lessons...etc.) We know recreating a school day at home is simply impossible, so the amount of time children should be doing school work will inevitably vary from household to household. Don't worry too much if your child has a day off from school work from time to time. Keeping their enthusiasm for learning new things should not be at the cost of fall-outs in the family at this stressful time in all our lives.

## Doodle Maths and English Webinars for Parents

Parents can access free daily webinars to support working on Doodle by going to this link:

<https://www.doodlemaths.com/free-parent-webinar/>



## Extra FREE Reading Material: "Wheeler's", "Audible" and "Oxford Owl"

If your child has run out of reading books, do not panic! Our school library is linked to a website called 'Wheeler's' 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! 😊)

[www.stories.audible.com](http://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. Amazon have opened up this service free of charge during the Lockdown.

Oxford Owl have now launched FREE e-books too! Go to this link: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/books/free-ebooks/>

## Chichester Festival Theatre

We are pleased to share that Chichester Festival Theatre are streaming David Walliam's book 'The Midnight Gang' from today and, from May 21<sup>st</sup>, 'Beauty and the Beast'. Click on the link to enjoy these productions. If the link doesn't work, copy and paste it into your browser. 😊

<https://www.cft.org.uk/news/the-midnight-gang-and-beauty-and-the-beast-to-be-streamed-online-from-cft>

## Free School Meals

If you originally told us that you didn't want the Free School Meals package, which is provided by Hampshire Caterers (HC3s) from Herne's kitchen, and you would like to change your mind, that's not a problem! 😊 Each package contains enough food for one child for five days' worth of lunches, e.g. bread, sandwich fillers, fresh fruit and salad items, yoghurts, drinks etc. All you need to do, if you are already eligible for Free School Meals, is email us on [admin@hernejunior.com](mailto:admin@hernejunior.com) and we will make sure you are provided for.



We are increasingly aware of families having to access Universal Credits and other schemes to bring an income into the family household. It may be possible that you are now eligible for Free School Meals and the Local Authority could help you with lunches for your child or children in your household. Below is the link to apply for free school meals on HC3s' website. As soon as you receive notification from them that this is approved please let the school know, so that we can add you on to our list and make sure the kitchen has the information.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals/juniorsecondary>

If you are entitled to one of these packages, please come and collect it every Monday between 10.30am and 12.00 midday from our school kitchen. If this is an issue just email Mr Markham on [headteacher@hernejunior.com](mailto:headteacher@hernejunior.com) and he will advise you.

## Critical Key Workers – Are You Eligible?

Many parents will be aware that Herne has remained 'open' during the Lockdown in order to support parents who are Critical Key Workers. If you think you might be eligible for this childcare support and to book a place at the school between now and the end of May, please look at the government's link here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We will need to authorise your role if you are a new applicant, so contact us in the first instance by email: [admin@hernejunior.com](mailto:admin@hernejunior.com) Mr Markham will carry out a check, which will include contact with your employer and then will be in touch with you directly within a matter of days. A really important point to help us with our staffing rota is for Critical Key Workers to let us know if you don't need your childcare provision at the school, then we can adjust our staffing accordingly. **The government continues to advise that, if parents can keep their children safe at home, then this is the best action at this time.** Thank you. ☺

## Childcare Provision for Critical Key Workers During May

Critical Key Workers will receive an email in the next 24 hours to request your latest needs for provision for the whole of the month of May. By giving us your needs for the next four weeks, we can plan for our staffing rota and make arrangements to provide a service over the May half-term. If there are sufficient requests, we will remain open next Friday on the May 8<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday for VE Day.



## Volunteers from Our Community of Parents

Thank you so much to all of the parents in our community who have been offering to provide the school with their time and support to help us to keep the school open for Critical Key Workers. At the moment, we are keeping numbers of people in the school as low as possible in order to restrict the number of interactions between each other and keep safe. However, if we get to a point where we need extra help, we will put out a request on our future Flyers. Thank you so much (including a lovely parent who is offering to make PPE equipment for our staff – Thank you ☺)

## Latest Government News for Schools

There are many sources in the media and indeed among headteachers and unions, speculating that schools may be returning sometime later this term. At the Education Select Committee on April 29<sup>th</sup>, Gavin Williamson, the Education Secretary relayed the following information to the MPs on this committee:



Schools across England are set to reopen to children in a "phased manner" after the Covid-19 lockdown, the Education Secretary has said. Gavin Williamson said the Government **did not have a fixed date for reopening schools** but ruled out the prospect of them opening over the summer holidays. He told MPs: "I do expect schools to be opened in a phased manner. I also intend to be giving schools as much notice as possible." Schools, colleges and nurseries across the UK closed their doors to the majority of pupils, apart from the children of key workers and vulnerable youngsters, more than five weeks ago. Addressing the Education Select Committee, Mr Williamson said: "We recognise that the idea of schools all returning on day one with the full complement of pupils is not realistic or practical."

## MESSAGE FROM PETERSFIELD FOOD BANK:

The PACT Food Bank based at the Salvation Army Hall in Swan Street, Petersfield, will be giving out food parcels to those in need, every week day, Monday – Friday between 9.30-11.30 am.

Families will need to have a Referral Voucher, but can ask the Food Bank or Salvation Army volunteers for one and once filled in, this will immediately be exchanged for bags of dried and tinned food and any toiletries we have in stock. The families will also be given Food Vouchers which can be exchanged at the Petersfield market for Fruit & Veg and Bread, Cheese & Eggs.



If you have any concerns about getting to the Salvation Army to collect your emergency provisions, or you are in quarantine or self-isolation, please contact the food bank via their website so that they can organise an emergency delivery by a volunteer.

[http://www.pact.org.uk/pact\\_food\\_store.asp](http://www.pact.org.uk/pact_food_store.asp)

To keep up with all of our breaking news during the weeks ahead, follow us on Twitter, download the Twitter app then look for: [@HerneJunior](https://twitter.com/HerneJunior) and see our website for lots of updates on helping your child at home: [www.hernejunior.com](http://www.hernejunior.com)

**STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES**