

Friday 15th May 2020



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Phased Re-Opening of Schools Message from the Headteacher



There is no doubt in my mind that, as I sit at my desk in school today (only for the second time whilst we've been open to Critical Key Worker children), that the notion of anything up to an extra 120 Year 6 children coming to school fills me with dread. With Key Worker children, we could potentially reach 160 pupils or more and then our school would be 'full' because we would run out of classroom space to put all of the children into if they are in groups of 10 to 15.

I have loved getting back into school today and it has provided me personally with some sense of normality; but things are not normal! Like many others on our staff,

I am categorised clinically vulnerable, hence the majority of my time I have stayed at home to work from there. This impacts on our ability to have a full complement of staff, especially when some staff are shielded on instruction from the government. Many of our teaching and support staff spend the week producing Home Learning through our website and J2E. They are in contact with families over the phone and by email. Our intention is to STAY SAFE and nurture our children from a distance.

I understand totally, the need to get our economy kick-started to help us all prosper in the future and that the intention behind the latest proposal of bringing pupils back into school is most strongly connected with the function of the school's childcare provision. I also know that many children and their families have struggled to maintain regular learning at home, so getting pupils back to school is important, especially with the large step-up for our Year 6s as they prepare for secondary school. We will take small steps to bring more children back into school and this really will be phased in with small-scale provision at the beginning. Although the government has an 'ambition' that all primary school year groups will attend schools from July, I seriously doubt we can achieve this due to our staffing capabilities and physical space within the school, so in reality most children from Herne are likely to remain at home until the summer holidays unless there are significant medical improvements with tackling the virus.

Three things will happen next week, which will detail our cautious steps towards bringing the children back to school:

- Year 6 parents will receive a letter on Monday which will ask you to tell us if you intend for your child to return to Herne from June 1st onward. We will ask for a commitment for the entire month so that we can plan our staffing levels
- We will extend our provision for Critical Workers and children in priority groups from next week, so some families will be receiving calls or emails to invite their child into school from today onwards
- We will monitor closely the government's response about the scientific evidence that suggests it will soon be safe to have nearly 200 people (children and staff) back into one place (Herne) on June 1st

I know some parents will have a huge number of questions about my message today and, if you know me at all, I won't shirk my responsibilities to make sure I am doing the best for our children and school community and I am always open to feedback. If you'd like to contact me personally, my email is: headteacher@hernejunior.com

Keep Safe. Tony Markham, Headteacher.

Struggling With Learning At Home?

This week, we received a very amusing and informative video from our new Head Girl and Head Boy. This year is the first time Herne has ever had these leadership roles for our children and, as it turns out, both Vega and Artie have taken this responsibility very seriously! Click on the link below to watch their seven-minute informative movie about 'top tips for learning at home'!

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1dcCwhu8YAuylyW7rC9UNAuoXmNbEe4rA>



Our NHS Supporting Herne?

If anyone in our parent community has a NHS email, would you mind getting in contact with Mr Markham because he's trying to buy a new large shed for the school and we'll get 10% off if we use a NHS email in the order. The school will pay of course, so you won't be liable for any costs! The company we spoke to said this would be okay. Email him on headteacher@hernejunior.com if you would be happy to help. ☺

Blue Peter Award!

Sophia Pearson, one of our Year 3 children in Fir Class, created a lovely poster about protecting our environment in each of the four seasons of the year. We'll post this on Twitter later this weekend, but we thought she'd love to share this news with all of our children because Blue Peter sent her a special GREEN BADGE to show off her special consideration for nature.

Well done Sophia and your sister Charlotte looks very proud of her big sister too! 😊



Annual School Reports – Pupil Comments

Each year during June, the children are invited to put a self-assessment comment into their report to reflect on their year at Herne. We would love them to cast their minds back to the period September 2019 until the end of March this year, when hopefully they will have some fond memories of the things they did in school during that time. They may also want to add a little bit about their time at home during this period of Lockdown, thinking about some of the positive things they have done (school work or otherwise!) To help you, here are the questions we asked them to think about before Easter. They only need to do between 100 and 200 words and will have several weeks to think of something before we'll need them in June.



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?

Rapid Read Updates

ActiveLearn, who provide Rapid Read for our pupils are making updates to their website on 16th May (tomorrow). As a result, this means that **all pupils will need to re-enter their username and password again** when they first login after this date, as any saved details won't be shown by the browser. Prior to this if you wish to make a note of usernames and passwords, you can by clicking "Show" on the sign in/login page. If you experience any difficulties, please email L.TANDY@HERNEJUNIOR.COM for assistance.

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 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. 😊

Education Psychology Now Open to Parents and Carers

Message from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Educational Psychology Telephone Support Line:

Following the government direction around social distancing and education setting closures, we are running a Telephone Support Line which will be:

- provided by educational psychologists
- available each day from 9.30am -12.30pm and 1.00pm – 4.00pm

This Telephone Support Line is available for parents / carers to access for any queries relating to the emotional wellbeing of the children they are caring for. Please phone this number if you need advice or support: East (Rushmoor): 01252 814 729



Butser Ancient Farm Supporting Herne!

Many thanks to our friends at Butser Farm who have been helping our site team with the building of a replica ROUNDHOUSE right here in our school grounds! We are so grateful to them for their expertise and practical help and we're all looking forward to the finished house when the children return! Thank you so much! 😊

MISSING YOU ALL!



A message to all the Year 4's from us to you



A Message to ALL of the Children from HERNE JUNIOR SCHOOL Senior Leadership Team



Well done to all of our families! We now have every family receiving flyers AND letters by schoolcomms! 😊😊😊

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 and see our website for lots of updates on helping your child at home: www.hernejunior.com

STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES