

Knowing Every Child – Inspiring Every Mind – Achieving Every Day

Tuesday 19th May 2020



Website: www.hernejunior.com

Email: admin@hernejunior.com

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

Telephone: 01730 263746

Year 6 Phased Return in June

Message from the Headteacher

If you are a parent of a child in Year 6, you will have received a letter YESTERDAY about the phased return of Year 6 from June 3rd after half-term. If you didn't get this letter, please contact us on a special email as follows: y6return@hernejunior.com

For information to all parents, this letter has set out our very cautious phased return for Year 6 pupils. In the first week in June, this will be just on the Wednesday so that we can check that our measures for safety are effective. In the second week of June this will step up to two days (Tuesday and Wednesday), then for the last two weeks of June, three days (Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays).



By doing this we can guarantee that teachers will still have capacity to keep the Home Learning materials up to date for all other 360+ pupils at home. It also gives us time to massively extend our cleaning programme and deep clean several classrooms on Thursdays and Fridays.

Children will be taught in 'bubbles' where each small class unit of 10 to 15 pupils will be taught by the same teacher or qualified member of support staff. Drop-off times will be staggered, as will pick-up times. Children will need to be delivered to school at the door

by parents and we will have to carefully ensure things like toileting, breaktimes and lunchtimes are arranged at different times of the day to maintain social distancing.

An additional challenge for us is that, as schools start to return, the number of requests to take children of Critical Key Workers has shot through the roof. This is partly due to school staff at other schools needing childcare.

We will endeavour to do our best to make sure everyone is kept as safe as possible and, just like the supermarkets before us, I can foresee additional measures coming into play as we find gaps in our provision. Thank you so much for all of the lovely messages from parents wishing us well in this challenge. I feel that we are aiming to do our best in order to do the right thing for our country and our economy. I only hope that we do not add to the catastrophic impact of this virus by opening our doors too widely too quickly.

If you'd like to contact me personally, my email is: headteacher@hernejunior.com **Keep Safe.** *Tony Markham, Headteacher.*

Year 6 Frequently Asked Questions

Several parents have been in touch over the last 24 hours with some pertinent questions which we have set out below. A more detailed letter will be sent out on Thursday of this week, once we know the sorts of numbers we are dealing with, so please look out for that later.

- **Will drop-off and pick-up times be staggered?** YES – more details for your child will follow before June 1st.
- **Will my child need to wear uniform?** NO – research has shown that the washing of clothes on return from a work place helps to minimise the risk of contact and we appreciate that many children will not have enough uniform to do this.
- **Will there be any school meals available?** YES – more details for your child will follow before June 1st.
- **Can my child meet other children from other groups (bubbles) outside of school?** This is a difficult one to answer! We need to be assured that children across the groups (or bubbles) are maintaining the government guidelines of social distancing outside of school. If we hear reports of any of our Year 6 children gathering in groups when they should be with their parents or one-to-one with a friend at an appropriate 2 metre distance, then they run the risk of us refusing for them to continue to return to the school. This is because it is essential the virus transmission is contained as much as possible.
- **Will Year 6 children who are part of the school's Key Worker group be able to mix with other Y6?** - NO. Parents will need to decide if they want their child to be part of our Year 6 set-up for June OR part of a separate Critical Key Worker group. Children will not be able to mix and match otherwise there is a risk to cross-contamination.
- **When will I find out more?** A further letter will come to Year 6 parents on Thursday with more information. Don't forget that this is just for June. Any transition to secondary school is likely to be done remotely so that all pupils, whether at school or at home, will have the same experience.

Critical Key Worker Support at Half-Term

As a treat, we have lined up our long-term friend and sports coach, Alex Bone, to take our Key Worker children **who are already booked in over half-term**. This will give the children who have been coming into school, week after week during Lockdown, whilst their parents have kept us all going and safe, a chance to take some time for other activities that they wouldn't usually do. The times for next week, which includes the Bank Holiday Monday, will be an 8.30 start until 3.30. Although this will be a slightly shorter day, it will make a change from the usual routine for the children. It will also give our staff a chance to break away from the rotas and work they have been doing on our website and J2E in order to prepare for next half-term. Having said that, even then, several staff have still volunteered to come in next week to support Alex and the children. ☺



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. ☺

Our NHS Supporting Herne? Thank You!



We'd like to say a huge thank you to the many parents who emailed in to offer the use of your NHS email address in order to secure a discount for a large workshop we would like to buy. This will save us approximately £120 and we'll be in touch with you personally when we're going to do this order. ☺

Tax-Free Childcare

Are you currently employed as a Key Worker during COVID-19? Use Tax-Free Childcare to help pay for services. Even if you are not a Key Worker you can set up a Tax-Free Childcare account to pay towards future services. Open an online account, which you can pay into for covering the cost of childcare with a registered provider. For every £8 you pay into an online childcare account, the government will automatically add £2, up to the value of £2,000 per child per year (or £4,000 for disabled children).

The scheme is available for children under the age of 12 and children with disabilities under the age of 17.

CHECK ONLINE NOW: You may be able to access the additional funding if you (and your partner) meet the working (including self-employment) and income criteria.

For more information or to find out if you are eligible, apply online at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk> Or call 0300 1234097

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?

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