

Friday 29th May 2020



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## Into the Unknown? Message from the Headteacher

As we prepare to welcome back more pupils into our school, guided by the government 'science', it occurs to me that there are some facts about this pandemic and how it has affected the UK, that are a worry to me:

- 1) The UK is only 2<sup>nd</sup> to the USA for confirmed fatalities from Covid-19. 37,837 as of yesterday.
- 2) The UK is 4<sup>th</sup> in the world for confirmed cases, behind USA, Brazil and Russia; all huge countries (unlike the UK)
- 3) On Wednesday evening this week on the Peston News Show, the Health Secretary, Matt Hancock confirmed that **"close contact of less than 2 metres puts people at higher risk"** and a few minutes later in the same show stated that *"some people, like children, very very rarely actually get symptoms, but they still pass the disease on."*
- 4) Government advice, as of Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, is that only up to 6 people can meet, outside, maintaining social distancing of 2 metres, including back gardens and entry into homes can only occur if it is to get to a garden
- 5) As of today, schools in South Korea are closing for a second time due to a second spike in cases of Covid-19



So what does this mean for the children at Herne, our communities' families, once pupils return home from school, and for my staff? You do the joined-up thinking!

I've made no secret of being extremely cautious about re-opening to many more pupils than the children of Key Workers and it is with the above in mind that we will only be opening to Year 6 for one day on Wednesday next week.

On that day, we will be able to test the measures we have put in place to minimise the risks. We will see if we can ensure that children can actually achieve the social distancing required for the 6+ hours when they will be in a single room with up to two consistent members of staff, who we are being told by the government "do not need Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) unless attending to a pupil with intimate care needs". The picture above sums up what other countries believe is a protective measure!

If you'd like to contact me personally about our approach, as always, email me on [headteacher@hernejunior.com](mailto:headteacher@hernejunior.com)

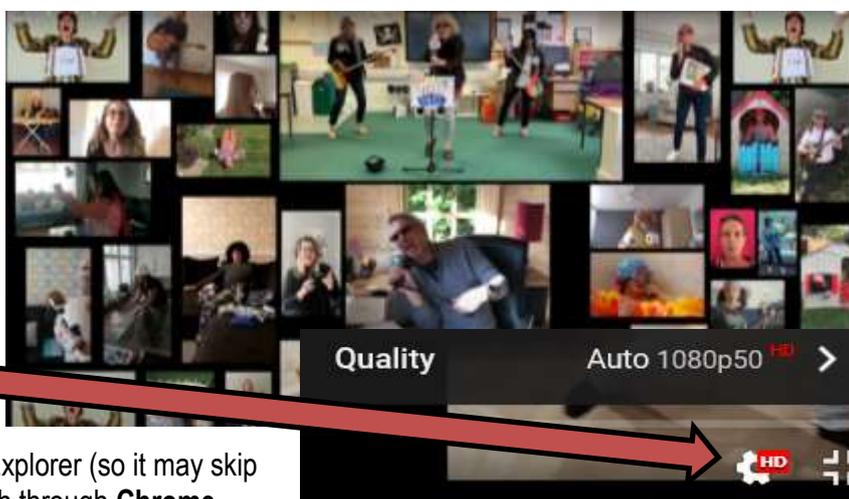
**Stay Safe.** Tony Markham. Headteacher

### "Oh My Gosh" Performed by the Herne staff

The staff at Herne have been working hard on a little song to (hopefully) entertain all our wonderful families in these most unusual times. We hope you enjoy it. A big thank you to Mrs Hepworth who dreamt up the whole project and co-ordinated the 120 individuals' videos to make this music video possible.

Due to the amount of small video files working together, it is worth going to the cog (or the 3 dots on a phone) and put the quality on 1080p, so you can see what is going on in all the video windows. Youtube does now not support Internet Explorer (so it may skip and jump if watching on this browser); best to watch through **Chrome**, **Edge** or **Safari**.

We hope you enjoy it! 😊 Click this link for the video: <https://youtu.be/w-8xd-nboSO>



## Year 6 Returning on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

We understand that things like maintaining 2 metres distance (hopefully) and regular hand washing will be vital when we have so many more children back at the school next week. We will be making temperature checks on the arrival of **all pupils** and asking some simple questions about coughing and the loss of taste or smell.



We will remain on ALERT for anyone in the building showing any of these classic symptoms during the day and will be expecting parents to fulfil their civic duty to inform us of anyone in their household who are self-isolating or showing symptoms of Covid-19. We cannot risk getting this wrong. If this day for Year 6 is successful and we are satisfied that we can keep everyone safe, then we will continue to push our doors slightly further ajar over the coming weeks.

For your information, we can only squeeze 12 or less children into our narrow classrooms. The responses from Year 6 parents were that literally 50% of the 118 children will be attending on Wednesday. If you were a parent that said YES to your child attending, you have the chance to change your mind during June if you think that the return has not been safe enough. Please let us know if this is the case. If you have said NO, you must keep your child at home during June, otherwise the bubbles we have created will be broken.

In order to keep things going for the Year 6 children who will spend June at home, Thursdays and Fridays will allow us to deep clean classrooms and to ensure the Home Learning for Year 6 is maintained. All Year 6 parents will receive an update letter towards the end of June so that parents can choose to return for July. The week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> June, will be a three day week, **so any roll out of additional days or pupils will not take place until the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> July.**

## Key Worker Groups

The children who have traditionally been looked after during the Lockdown have numbered up to 16 pupils and have mostly been taught in one classroom (our largest one).. On some days, we have split them into two rooms. On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, Key Worker children will be split into 4 classes, one for each year group, and will enter the school from the playgrounds side of the school.

Looking at the numbers of children, we are likely to combine the Years 3 and 4 children but keep Year 5 and Year 6 separate. Please drive to the basketball playground to drop-off and we will guide the children in from there. Extra barriers will be in place to keep the children apart from each other. However, due to staffing constraints, we will not be able to provide a consistent adult for these groups. Every group changes on a daily basis, according to parents needing childcare to cover their shifts, so this is virtually an impossible task. As this will be a new routine, please bear with us as we roll out these new arrangements next week (we know it was a lengthy detailed letter!!)



## Year 3 and Year 4 Home Learning

Our Year 3 and Year 4 teams have created a new maths booklet that will be referenced on our Home Learning timetables (the resource is additional pages of our Target Maths books, which are used in school). We know parents appreciate having resources that are printed out, to save the endless printing at home. The booklet will be available digitally on the website from after half-term, but we have also photocopied lots of copies that are available to collect from under the canopy by our front office. The front gate of the school will be open between 7.00am – 4.30pm all next week, if you wish to pick up a copy. Don't forget that there will also be spare exercise books available under the canopy too, if any parents wish to collect a new one. **Please avoid the traditional drop-off and pick-up times of the school day to avoid the groups of children who will be in school.** Thank you.

## Free School Meals

The weekly packages will resume for collection on Monday mornings from the school kitchen between 10.30am and 12.00 midday from June 1<sup>st</sup>. Throughout the Lockdown, we have maintained a remote office service where we can receive messages for the admin team, so if you want to get in touch about Free School Meals, email: [admin@hernejunior.com](mailto:admin@hernejunior.com)

Look out next week for exciting news about the Community Running Track at Herne!



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