



Friday 19th January 2024

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A Note from our Headteacher

Dear Parents & Carers,

Bit of a worrying note to pass on today but it's important that we flag up these two things with you so we can work together to keep our children safe.

Firstly, we have had a small rise in quite specific racist language being used on the playground. It appears to be an issue for other schools too. What is most worrying is the rise in cases of children using the 'N word' as a general term of abuse.

We are constantly revisiting an equality approach through classwork and assemblies and our children are very clear in explaining why racist, homophobic or other prejudicial language is not acceptable and why, so we have been a bit baffled. However, thanks to some very helpful conversations with Year 6, we seem to understand the source. It would appear that many children are accessing the same, very unsavoury, material on a range of social media channels: **TikTok, YouTube, Instagram**, to name a few which is titled, 'N- word Pass'. Some entries suggest the pass 'pardons' people from using the word while other clips show two young men posing as researchers who trick people into using the word then post videos of them, shaming them for using it. As a seemingly innocuous video, it even got through the school firewall so there is potential for access even with parental controls on. We are looking into this. On talking to a group of parents this week, several commented upon the rise in swearing and prejudicial language being used while playing games such as Fortnite. This is worrying.

We are meeting next week as a safeguarding team to look at a range of programmes which aim to combat racism and boost attitudes which promote equality. Once we have agreed on a programme, we will form a working party of staff, parents and governors to oversee our approach - we already have several parent volunteers via coffee morning events in school. Other local schools have indicated that they are interested in joining us in a combined effort to solve this problem locally. Watch this space.

In the meanwhile, please do talk to your child about prejudicial language and do review their access to social media sites. Most have a 12-14 age limit anyway so Primary aged children should not be accessing them. One clever parent told us that although their child wears headphones, they have ensured it is audible and at the first sign of bad language, they pull the plug!

Secondly, you will have noticed that the media is full of information about the rise of measles in school aged children. (My book recommendation last week was timely!) Please do inform us if your child has measles, it can be very harmful to children with low immunity or pregnant women. See more information about measles on page 2 of the flyer.



After all that worrying news, it would be good to end with something positive! Well done to our fantastic School Council, who have been working really hard talking to their classes and voting on their priorities for the year. The children have decided to focus on three key areas for this academic year, which are: adopting an endangered animal for each class (see page 2 of the flyer), increasing the amount pupils help out in the community and further growing our concept of

HARMONY. It is so lovely to see how excited the children are to further improve our wonderful school.

I'm very much looking forward to our first Induction visit to Yr2 at PIS on Monday to start identifying needs for September. Very exciting!

And finally...whatever you are up to this weekend, enjoy. I'm nursing a cold so have every intention of tucking myself up, warm and cosy, in front of the fire with a good book.

Take care,
Sue Sayers
Headteacher

P.S. If you've read "Piranesi" by Susanna Clarke (Winner of Women's Prize for Fiction 2021), do drop me a line and let me know what you thought of it. It was wonderfully weird with an unexpected ending but could be interpreted in many ways! Thanks to our SBM, Mrs Loader for recommending it!





Measles

You may be concerned about news of an outbreak, in the Midlands, of Measles. It is reported that the increase in the disease is due to a lower take up of the vaccination in the recent few years. For most people it is a mild illness, starting with cold like symptoms, a high fever and a rash developing around 2- 4 days after the initial symptoms. For some it can be serious. We have not had any cases at Herne, but if any family member missed a vaccination opportunity during the COVID pandemic, and if you want one, it is not too late and you should contact your GP. Please see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles> for more information.

Safer Internet Day 6th February

Each week leading up to Safer Internet Day, we will give you a link that will help you and your child to use the internet safely. This week we look at ensuring that you feel confident your child is safe whilst using the new devices given as gifts over Christmas. [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)



Non-School Uniform Day – Thursday 8th February

School Council have organised a non -school uniform day on Thursday 8th February to raise money so every class in school can adopt an endangered animal. **School council would also like everyone to bring in a cuddly animal on this day** – to show the school's love and support for animals across the world. Classes have been voting which endangered animal they would like to adopt and school council need to raise £45 per class to make their dream a reality. The grand total they need is £675 (Marwell Zoo have

kindly agreed to "Adopt 15 get 1 free") which works out at £1.40 per pupil. School council would like pupils to bring in a donation of what they can afford, but if possible, if it could be around the £1.40 mark, that would be amazing 😊.

School Lunches

Just a little reminder that pupil's lunch accounts on Parentpay need to be in credit for pupils to access school lunches. We do send out regular reminder emails if your account is in debt, so please keep an eye out for these.

Parentpay does offer the facility to set up automatic reminders via text or email to remind you when your balance goes under a certain value.

Have your say on crucial proposals for future services in Hampshire

Hampshire County Council has launched an important public consultation, inviting people to provide their views on the future of some local services in Hampshire, as a part of steps by the local authority to help meet a £132 million budget shortfall by April 2025. Your views are really important - so please take the time to [respond to the consultation online](#), and encourage others to do the same.



Home Link Corner

Just a reminder about 'Back to Basics'. This is a community campaign run by Hampshire County Council and partners. The purpose of the project is to support families to manage their wellbeing within the home, creating resilience and empowering families through conversations, resources and tools which can be found on the [Back to Basics online platform](#).

Just near the main entrance, is our 'Back to Basics' noticeboard, which contains the 'Back to Basics' flower. Each petal represents one of the 'five ways to wellbeing': 'Take Notice', 'Give', 'Be Active', 'Keep Learning' and 'Connect'. Every half term, I change the suggestions within each petal, of ways you can support your family. Please contact me if you would like further information. Sonja Balmer (s.balmer@hrnejunior.com) (Home School Link Worker)

Year 5 Dodgeball Festival.



Last week a group of year 5 children participated in a dodgeball festival at South Downs College. The aim of the festival was to have fun and show amazing teamwork. The two Herne teams demonstrated our Harmony values brilliantly and showed great teamwork, whilst having a lot of fun.



Doodle

Doodle have created a second Back-To-School Competition starting this Friday in DoodleMaths, DoodleEnglish, DoodleSpell and DoodleTables.

Please can you encourage your children who have Doodle, to Doodle little and often to stay in their green zone. Children will be able to earn in-app badges for reaching their targets!



Physical activity and organised sport in primary school children and their parents

Call for participants

Loughborough University

This study has gained ethical approval from Loughborough University

Am I eligible?

- A resident of the United Kingdom
- Over the age of 18
- The parent, grandparent or official carer for a child who is of primary school age

Scan QR code for the survey

What does the study involve?

Completing a 5-10 minute anonymous online survey answering questions about yours and your child's physical activity and organised sport participation.

For more information contact:
h.m.griffin-20@student.lboro.ac.uk

Ex-Herne Pupil Needs your help

Hettie Griffin (ex-pupil) is currently doing her dissertation at Loughborough University and she would love your participation in her research regarding physical activity and organised sport (for children and parents in a primary settings). If you have a spare 5-10 minute, please scan the QR code (see the poster to the left) and get involved – Hettie would be so grateful. 😊



Forest School Club

We are pleased to announce we are launching our first official Forest School Club, that is open to all children at Herne. The club will be held every Wednesday after school 3.30 – 5.00pm starting after half-term (21st February) and finishing on Wednesday 10th of July (18 weeks). The club will cost £7 per child per session, so parents will be asked to pay £42 per half-term (paying for 6 sessions at a time). If you would like to sign-up your child, please email admin@hernejunior.com and children will be allocated places on a first come first serve basis. If we have more children apply than places, we will start a waiting list. If you child signs up for the club and wants to drop out, we will require 2 weeks notice and will refund any remaining money that is owed, if we can fill the child's place from the waiting list. We are very lucky as a school to have four Forest School qualified teachers on the staff.

Jigsaws for Breakfast and Twilight Clubs

If anyone is having a post Christmas blitz of kids stuff, the clubs would be very happy to receive any complete jigsaws you no longer use. We have several large piece puzzles, but need 50 piece puzzles (approximately) as these are ideal to complete within a session. Please either donate direct to the club if your child attends, or to the office. Thank you.

January		March	
Mon 22 nd	Year 5 Bikeability starts – Beech, Cedar, Rowan	Fri 1 st	Year 4 Rainbow Theatre
Mon 29 th	Year 5 Bikeability starts – Maple	Tues 5 th	Parents' Evening
		Thur 14 th	Parents' Evening
		Thurs 28 th	Easter Holiday begins - 12.30pm Finish today
		Fri 29 th	BANK HOLIDAY – Good Friday
February		April	
Mon 5 th	Open School 3.30 - 5.00pm	1 st - 12 th	Easter Holidays
Thu 8 th	Non-School Uniform Day and bring an animal teddy.	24-26 th	Avon Tyrell (Year 5 residential)
Fri 9 th	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR TRAINING		
12 th – 16 th	HALF TERM		
Fri 23 rd	Mid-Year Postcards coming home		