



HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

OUR SCHOOL VALUES: RESPECT - UNDERSTANDING - PEACE - HONESTY - RESPONSIBILITY - TEAMWORK

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'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 13:34

28th September 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

This half term's value is **Respect**

Autumn Term Newsletter No. 2

The last couple of weeks have seen us all settle in to a more 'normal routine' continuing to make use of the school grounds and outside world as the weather turns a lot more Autumnal. We were pleased to be able to go ahead with school photos although they did have to take place inside to avoid windswept photos!

Special Welcome to ...

A warm welcome our new reception children: Hasan, Mia, Amelie, Ellie, Alex, Joshua, Benjamin, Ciara, Izzabella, Ava-Grace, Tallulah, Arlo, George, Locryn, Amber, Bibi, Matilda, Rhys, Maya, Nathan, Harrison, Rosie, Anwen, Alfie, Bethan and Amber; plus a special welcome to children who have joined our older classes: Amelia (Y2) and Caia (Y3).

Harvest

Our Harvest service was a rather different affair this year, but we were pleased that it was able to take place in key stages on the school field before the weather turned. Thank you to Mrs White for leading the service which focussed on farming and the hard work of farmers which continued throughout the national lockdown. Please do have a look at our school website to see pictures of the outdoor service.

Family holidays

I do understand how important family holidays are and that this year this has been particularly challenging for everyone. After so long learning remotely and with so many unknowns ahead of us, it is more important than ever that your child's learning is disrupted as little as possible. I would therefore urge parents more than ever not to book a holiday during term time which will not only disrupt your child academically but socially and emotionally as well. If you do so this will be recorded on your child's school record as 'unauthorised' and a fine may be issued.

Furthermore, during these difficult times, I am sorry to ask that parents do not book family holidays abroad at half term (and potentially Christmas) which could result in a quarantine period upon return. These circumstances are not what any of us want and I thank you for your support with this.

Nut-Free School

Please note that Hawridge & Cholesbury CE School is a Nut-Free Zone as we have children in school with severe nut allergies, Please do not send in any products containing nuts. Special care should be taken regarding cereal bars in school lunch boxes etc. Thank you.

School Car Park

Due to its limited capacity, the school car park is for staff use only and may also be used by disabled badge holders (please show the disabled badge to the school office who will ask to take a copy for future reference). Staff will bring the children of disabled badge holders to their car and hand over to their parents. Children should remain in the car until all siblings have arrived and you are all able to leave. No children should be in the car park unless in a car and adults are asked to follow our expectations that all visitors wear a face covering and social distance whilst on site. Thank you for helping to keep our community safe.

Tik Tok and other Social Media

During the last few months, technology has had an increased importance in all our lives. I know that many of us have appreciated keeping in contact with loved ones remotely when it has not been possible to meet up. I am aware that the children access various sites to do this and spending 'real time' with peers has been an adjustment for them in the last few weeks.

Please can I ask that you keep talking to your children about their online activity and check both the content of what is being sent and the settings of the platform used. I have recently become aware of some inappropriate 'banter' which can easily get out of hand causing upset and offence.

Furthermore some parents choose to allow their children to use platforms which guidance indicates are for older people. One example is Tik Tok which describes itself as being for 13 years + (with a 12 + app rating) and should not therefore be used by any primary school aged child. I have been very concerned to find that several of our children are very active on this site and that some of those children are not using privacy settings. Some are also wearing school uniform in their postings and this makes them more easily identifiable and very vulnerable. Without privacy settings any app user can watch, download and copy their postings. Please, please consider very carefully whether you allow your children to use these apps designed for older people and at the very least ensure that accounts are set as private (allowing only close friends and family members access). You may be interested to follow this link for further information about Tik Tok.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok-everything-you-need-know-about-video-production-app>

BBC "Own It" App

The Own It Keyboard and App helps children aged 8-13 years to lead a positive life online. Easy and free to download it provides keyboard prompts as children type and receive messages in the form of an emoji or caution message. It's a bit like an on-line conscience, helping children think twice about what they choose to type. Designed to be the voice of an older sibling, the keyboard, once installed, responds with in-the-moment feedback to anything unkind or inappropriate. This will help children avoid mistakes with their digital footprint as well as give advice to children who receive inappropriate or unkind messages.

- The Own It app helps children take control of their online choices!
- The Own It app comes with a special keyboard. This can be used like any other keyboard, but it also gives you helpful tips and friendly advice as you write!
- Track how you feel and improve your wellbeing. Packed full of gifs and emojis to help express yourself!
- There are lots of fun quizzes, videos and articles to enjoy. Best of all, the Own It keyboard and app is personal to you.
- Everything you type is kept completely private, and never leaves the Own It app on your phone.

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/own-it-app>

We are really keen for all our KS2 pupils, who have a device of their own, to download the App and install the keyboard as well as making use of the excellent resources available. Please have a look and see what you think.

The links below have some videos to explain the App and keyboard facility in a bit more details.

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit>

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/did-you-ever-post-mean-commentsonline>

Bringing Children to School at the Start of the Day

To clarify, if you and your child are happy for them to be handed over to an adult at the end of the drive they may walk up independently. If there is no adult at the end of the drive, please walk them up to their drop off point and continue around the one way system. As there is no 'drop off' point at the end of the drive, parents will need to park and walk in order to hand their child over.

Timings: please stick to the drop off timings in order to prevent groups of children waiting to come in and to keep the number of adults on site spread out over the drop off period. If you have more than one child to drop off, please drop them towards the end of the time for one so that the second child arrives at the beginning of their time (rather than dropping both at the beginning time of the first one). E.g for children with a 8.40 – 8.50 and 8.50 - 9.00 drop off, please drop both at 8.50 am. Many thanks for your help with this.

Homework and eSchools

The children and teachers are working really hard to catch up on any gaps in their learning and to move forward. Home learning is a really important part of this process as we know that children learn by reinforcing skills and concepts in a variety of ways including at home with you. All Home learning is being set over the eSchools platform. If you are unsure of your login details, please contact the school office and check your class page at least weekly to access work set and see teachers' feedback.

Birthday Book Donations and Sweets

As we are promoting our school as a healthy eating environment sweets should not be brought into school at any time including when it is a child's birthday. Parents had a lovely idea of donating a new book to the school library on their child's birthday. If you wish to do this, please send a book into the school office and a book plate will be put into it with your child's name on before it goes into the library.

PSA AGM

This will take place on Wednesday, 30th September at 7:30pm over Zoom. Details will be sent soon and all parents are welcome to be a part of all PSA meetings.

Rainy Weather

As the weather starts to turn more wintery, please remember to send your children into school wearing a coat. Unless it is absolutely torrential rain they do go outside at both break and lunchtime.

Covid Testing

Just to reiterate the points on the recent letter we sent out from the NHS regarding Covid testing.

You should only book a test if your child has any of these three coronavirus symptoms:

1. a high temperature: any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature)
2. a new continuous cough: coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
3. a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste: a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal

Your child does not need a test if they have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell but do not have a temperature, cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste because these are not normally symptoms of coronavirus.

If you are unsure about whether to get a test, please check the official list of symptoms on the NHS website, which is reviewed regularly: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/

Only the person with symptoms should get a test. You do not need to get a test for anyone else in the household unless they also have any of the three symptoms listed above. All members of the household need to self-isolate whilst waiting for the test result.

Acorns

You may notice your children bring home an acorn in their pocket over the coming week. I will be talking to them about the importance of the oak tree to our countryside. The oak tree is an important part of our heritage and historically acorns were collected at this time of year, used as an animal feed etc. but one particularly kept in a pocket for year round luck! At this time when our children are being kept in bubbles and not mixing with other staff or children across the school, I hope that the acorn in their pocket will also act as a reminder that we are all part of one school community, thinking of and caring for each other.

'So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.' Romans 12:5

Kind regards

Mrs R Phillips
Headteacher