



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

15th September 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

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

Autumn Term Newsletter No. 1

It has been an absolute pleasure to see our school once again filled with children. It is clear that the children and staff are just as pleased as me to be back to some sort of 'normal'. Thank you so much for all your support, adapting to the new regime and bearing with us as we iron out the creases!

Atishoo! The return of the common cold.

As our community come together after such a long time in separate bubbles it is perhaps not surprising that some of our children and staff are succumbing to the seasonal cold once again. (I had hoped that with all our additional hand washing, working in bubbles and cleaning, the common cold would be eradicated, but it seems not!) The guidance from the government is clear that children or adults do not need to self-isolate if they have a cold with **NO** Covid19 symptoms and in these circumstance should be in school. However, as we are aware colds often come with temperatures and coughs. The guidance from PHE is as follows:

'The presence of a new continuous cough, a temperature of over 37.8 or a change in their sense of taste or smell should trigger self-isolation and testing, regardless of any other symptoms that accompany it.

- The cough must be both new (i.e. not normal for that person) and continuous. The NHS guidance on this is that the person should be coughing frequently for over an hour, or have at least 3 coughing fits in a 24hr period
- The temperature should be confirmed by at least one further reading to eliminate the possibility of thermometer error.'

It is really important that we are all vigilant, test the temperature of unwell children, and apply for a test even if we feel the symptoms are cold-related rather than Covid19.

Covid19 tests

It is rather frustrating to discover that so many people are struggling to book a test at a test site or order a postal test. I am assured that this is being 'escalated nationally' and hope we will see an improvement before too long. In the meantime please do persevere and keep us updated via email to the office. This is creating difficulties for our staff too who do not seem to get any priority testing.

Please be reassured by the fact that we are taking this very seriously, following guidance strictly and being very cautious. We do anticipate that tests and self- isolation will be frequent occurrences within our school community as we make every effort to avoid an outbreak of Covid-19. Current advice is that only the person with symptoms and their household members need to

self-isolate whilst a test is awaited (not contacts at school). If a positive test result is received we will take advice from PHE, Test and Trace accordingly.

This means that staff may be absent from school waiting for tests/ test results for themselves or other household members.

Whilst we do our utmost to keep staff in bubbles, classes may be covered by support staff under the guidance of the class teacher. Where staff are well, but at home, they will be in contact with the class remotely. Clearly if staffing numbers become too low, bubbles may have to close for a short period whilst test results are awaited but we are hoping to avoid that. It will not be manageable for us to inform parents each time a staff member or a pupil has a test, but we will let you know if further action is required on your part.

If your child needs to self-isolate but is well in themselves, the class teacher will work with you to provide the best continuity in learning we can from home. Please let us know if you are in this situation and we will discuss with you a way forward which we hope will work for you, your child and the school.

Summer challenges

TTRS

Well done to all those who took part in Mrs Kretschmer's TTRS challenge. As promised, participants from the winning teams below, will be awarded 20 house points in this week's Celebration Assembly. Congratulations to;

Year 4 who won the Year 4 v Year 5 contest and Year 2 who won the Year 3 v Year 2 contest

Certificates have been sent via eschools to the top scorers in each class. The highest scorers from each class will be awarded an additional 10 house points, their names are in bold below.

Well done to;

Ameera and Ines in current Year 6

Sam, Caden and Sanjeevan in current Year 5

Temide, Freya, Amelia in current Year 4

Neve, Sammy, Theo in current Year 3.

Blue Peter badges

Please let us know if your child managed to achieve a Blue Peter badge. I would love to acknowledge their achievement in our Friday Celebration Assembly this week and award them 10 house points.

Lockdown Recipe/ Memory Book

I have received lockdown memories from a small number of children. It is amazing how quickly life moves on and we all adapt to another change of circumstances. It would be great to be able to create a record of life in our community during lockdown which can be kept for years to come; perhaps something which can be passed down generations! Please do send in a memory or a recipe to share and help create this historic memento. Of course the promised house points will be happily awarded too.

Mrs Wale's Summer Reading Bingo!

Thank you and congratulations to those children who took up the Summer Reading Challenge. Mrs Wale was impressed to see the range of books that were read by children of different ages across the school and it was a pleasure seeing photos of children enjoying reading over the summer. Certificates and house points will be awarded in Celebration Assembly this Friday.

Uniform and hair

It's good to see the children looking smart in their uniform again. Thank you for supporting our requests for PE kit on set days. Please can I ask that children keep to natural hair colours for school without braids or extravagant hair ornaments. Save the holiday hair (blues and pinks) for the holidays!

Litter

As we return to school and appreciate the beautiful school grounds and surrounding countryside it would be great to help keep them litter-free. Many children are lucky enough to be greeted by an adult with a snack at the end of a day at school. Please encourage them to be mindful of where the wrappers end up and to take litter home to dispose of appropriately. Litter is both an eyesore and a hazard to our local wildlife. Thank you.

Homework Club and Story Start

Thank you to those who responded to our survey last week. We hope to resume these services next week. Please look out for a separate letter to find out about other arrangements and how to book a place. Since bubbles will be mixed, strict social distancing will apply and no child will be able to attend without a place being booked in advance and confirmation that a space is available.

Toys, Lip Balm and Rucksacks

Please be aware that toys are not allowed in school in order to avoid cross-contamination. Please also note that lip balm should not be brought into school unless the office has been informed in writing beforehand. The lip balm must then be given to the teacher for safe keeping.

Due to the current circumstances, we are not allowing any children, including Year 6 to bring in rucksacks.

PSA

A letter was sent out from the PSA detailing the plans in place for this academic year to raise funds and how to communicate with the PSA, The next meeting is on Wednesday, 23rd September at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Forest Schools and Music lessons

I am pleased to say that Forest Schools will resume again this week. Year 2 will be the first class to take part. We are also delighted to welcome back our peripatetic music teachers this week.

We have violin and woodwind lessons taking place on Thursdays. Please book the lessons directly via Amersham music centre;

<https://www.bucksmusic.org/tag/amersham-music-centre/>

Leadership team

I am aware that we have several new families in school so I thought I would take this opportunity to clarify the leadership structure currently in place at our school. The Leadership team consists of myself as Headteacher, supported by two Acting Assistant Headteachers Mrs Davey and Mrs White. Further support is provided by Mrs Wale and Mrs Woodward as senior teachers. For further information about their roles, please see our school website.

Welcome and Farewell to...

I am very pleased to welcome back Mrs Nagle who worked at Hawridge & Cholesbury school 2 years ago. Mrs Nagle will be working in Windmills with the Reception children and will be running our Homework Club.

Sadly, Miss Smith unexpectedly moved away from the area over the summer holidays and has not returned to Hawridge & Cholesbury. I am sure you will join me in thanking Miss Smith for her work in Windmills and Homework Club; she will be missed.

Lastly, I hope you are all enjoying the current blast of warm weather which seems to enhance natural beauty and certainly helps us with our outdoor learning.

One touch of nature makes the whole world kin. William Shakespeare, Troilus & Cressida

Kind regards

Mrs R Phillips
Headteacher