

# Hawkinge Primary School

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Dear Parents,

In our wildest dreams back in September, when we were all full of excitement and in trepidation of what the term ahead would have in store, could we ever have predicted how smoothly this first term would have been! All the new systems we have had to get used to: the change of start times at school and different home times, washing hands so many times each day, eating lunches in the classrooms and the Daily K. The children have adapted exceptionally well to all the routines including the 'well ventilated classrooms', pod toilets and not bringing in items from home or taking them home from school (other than homework of course!!). When we give ourselves time to reflect I think that you would agree that we have all (staff, children, parents and grandparents!) done a really great job! 😊

Of course, in this 'new world' we are living in change is inevitable – and often at the very last minute. I just wanted to take this opportunity to communicate a few more changes we will be undertaking in Term 2.

## **Home Times**

As each day passes home times are smoother and smoother (especially in the dry weather!) Thank you for arriving promptly to collect your children – too early or too late does complicate things slightly. We appreciate your promptness. To optimise learning time in school we would like to extend the school day for Reception & Year 2 pupils after half term as follows in the table below:

Reception classes	2:40pm	Please queue on the spots
Year 1 classes	2:40pm	Please queue on the squares
Year 2 classes	2:45pm	Please queue on the squares

For all home time collections Reception – Year 4 please collect your child from the triangles as soon as you see them (it is ok to overtake other parents if they are still waiting for their child) but can we ask once you are reunited you move away from the triangles so that the children are not overwhelmed by adults? Thank you.

In addition to that can I ask that if you are a parent of pupils in Years R-4 that you queue in the car park rather than waiting at the gate please? Too many adults standing around the gate firstly makes the gate a chaotic area and I worry about the safety of the little children especially, but also it contradicts social distancing rules and is unfair on parents who are queuing in the car park. A small number of parents have been given permission to collect their child from the gate for personal reasons. We really appreciate your support with this – the safety of our pupils and our community is of paramount importance to us.

## **Remote Learning**

You may have seen in the press that going forward it is expected that pupils who are away from school for reasons related to Covid (suspected cases awaiting a test, families isolating or the closure of a 'pod' ) are expected to engage with Remote Learning. We have 'dabbled' with various forms of Remote Learning this term and have a plan going forward of our 'Remote Learning Offer' which I

would like to describe to you under the following headings below. In preparation (for the hopefully unlikely event) of Remote Learning taking place for your child we will be sending home an English and Maths exercise book with each pupil early in Term 2, just in case you need it. Please do keep the book for 'Remote Learning' only. Any theme Remote Learning work can be completed in the back of the English Remote Learning book – all will be clear when you receive these books.

### **Remote Learning Expectations if my child is sick (non- Covid related)**

Stay at home, look after yourselves, follow usual attendance guidance, returning to school when better. There is no Remote Learning Expectations in these situations!

### **Remote Learning Expectations if my child is sick with Covid 19 symptoms**

To remind you, the symptoms the NHS & the Government ask us to follow are:

- A high temperature - hot to touch
- A new continuous cough
- Change to / loss of taste and /or smell

If your child shows these symptoms you must keep them at home, inform the school and arrange a test. Hopefully this will only take 2-3 days. When you contact the school Mrs Crook will ask you to provide us with your e mail address. By lunchtime on the same day Mr O'Brien or I will aim to e mail you links to work your child can complete if they are feeling well enough that reflect the work completed in class on those days. Work to be completed on a daily basis will be a maths lesson, an English lesson and a Theme lesson. If your child is feeling well enough to get ahead with their homework project this would be a great opportunity to do so – maybe completing additional tasks. If your son / daughter is in Year 3-6 they could also complete spelling activities included in the Remote Learning Pack and Times Table Rock Star work (their password and log in will be in your Remote Learning Pack).

If during this period of absence you need further support with the Remote Learning you will be able to email us for further clarification.

When your child receives a negative test results we would ask them to return their Remote Learning books to school where the class teacher will mark them and use assessments made to consider whether your child would need to attend some Keep Up Catch UP sessions to consolidate work missed.

### **Remote Learning Expectations if my child is tested positively for Covid or has been contacted through Track and Trace to have to self-isolate for up to 14 days.**

Once you have contacted the school (we will check that we have your e mail address) by lunchtime on the first day of absence Mr O'Brien or I will e mail you a set of work for the week for your child to complete that replicates the work taking place in the classroom. For pupils in years 1 – 6 there will be maths, English and theme lessons (including Science, RE, Geography & History). Some of the links will be for children to watch lesson introductions taught by teachers (not HPS teachers) and then complete follow up activities, other activities might ask you to log onto the school website and read a power point presentation and then complete follow up activities. Everything will mirror work being completed in school on those days. Once more, if your child would also like to use the time to get up to date with their Homework activities / complete more activities than expected this would be a good time to do so, in addition to the spelling activities and Times Table Rock Star work set for pupils in Years 3-6. Pupils will be expected to record their work in the Remote Learning exercise books provided. As above there will be an email address parents can use to raise any questions / concerns about the work set. At the end of the first week the class teacher will give you a call to check in with you to see how the work has gone and use this check in to be able to amend the work for the following week if necessary.

Reception pupils will also be provided with English, maths and phonics work daily with an additional lesson each day covering RE, Understanding the World and the Arts strands of the Early Years Curriculum across the week.

### **Remote Learning Expectations if a year group have to self-isolate.**

We have decided that we will be using the platform 'Seesaw' to publish the Remote Learning Work for children to access at home. Please do not worry about this at the moment – more information will be provided next term. However, children will be able to access teaching clips from teachers, be set lessons to complete at home and have the facility to share their work with teachers in a variety of ways. Opportunities are being looked into for children to get together in a live group situation regularly using a video facility and guidelines been written for pupils, parents and staff around this. We would use the same system if in the unlikely event we had to close per government guidelines too.

### **Half Term Holiday**

I have had several parents asking to confirm whether we have a 2 week half term. No we do not! We break up on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and the children start back at school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Over half term we plan to share some stories and activities on our Facebook page to keep everyone busy – so please keep a look out for those.

### **Development Days**

When we 'reopened' school in September we were not sure when we would need to use our Development Days. We have decided to book one for Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, leaving us 2 more that we haven't scheduled as of yet. They will not be before 4<sup>th</sup> January. I do recognise this is an inconvenience when you are trying to plan ahead for work schedules – however I think it is also important for us to be responsive to the new world we are living in as a school! Who knows what is around the next corner...!

### **Other end of term updates**

- Tomorrow we will say a sad good-bye to Mrs Parker. She has worked as a TA at Hawkinge Primary School for over 5 years. We will really miss her. She has most certainly been a welcome addition to our school community. We hope that she will stay in touch.
- This week we have welcomed 4 new TAs to our school – Mrs Thornton, Mrs Carpenter, Miss Knott and Miss Parker - it is a strange time to be joining a school, but already after a week it feels like they have always been here.
- A couple of parents have mentioned that their children have dry hands due to all the handwashing. This is a crucial part of the Government guidelines for keeping children and adults safe in school. However, we are currently using anti-bac soap, so have decided to trial using non-antibac soap after half term as it will not be as strong whilst still fulfilling all guidelines of hand washing with soap being a good preventative from the spread of Covid 19.
- The Foodbank donations were all collected yesterday – thank you for all your contributions. We do have the Foodbank bin outside the school office if you have any further donations you would like to make.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff for their exceptional hard work, good humour and camaraderie this term giving the children the absolute best provision under unusual (sometimes tricky) circumstances! I would like to thank the children for 'getting on with it' – from the children who have just started school in Reception to our Y6 pupils – they have astounded us all by learning new routines, never complaining and working so hard this term. Thank you also to all of our parents – you have been a super support – from friendly, reassuring words in the mornings, attending 'outdoor parents evenings', turning up promptly for drop off and pick-ups – we really do appreciate it!

Have a great week next week, whatever it may bring. We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.