



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Parents,

A message from Mrs Harvey on the Year 6 return to school

You will have now received yesterday's whole school newsletter that outlines our plans for the return of different year groups before the end of term and I just wanted to expand on this further. I know you will all be disappointed that the children cannot return as one group together for a longer period of time and we completely echo your frustration. This is not a situation we ever wanted to be in and we are as emotional as the children when we think of how the end of their time in Year 6 has been so very different to what we all expected. Yesterday's letter outlined what we can offer based on our current capacity and risk assessment. There are so many factors that we have to consider behind the scenes including: staffing, numbers accessing toilet facilities etc, groups of no more than 15, groups not being able to mix and staff not being able to move between groups. It is a very complex situation that we find ourselves in which is partly why the government plans to bring back additional year groups have had to be withdrawn. Government guidance has also directed schools, where they are not able to bring back all year groups at once, to prioritise the younger identified year groups if it is safe to do so but we felt strongly as a school that we wanted to provide something for our Year 6 cohort before they step out into the next stage of their education.

Just like yourselves, we are conscious that the children are keen for the chance to see as many of their classmates as they can before the summer and we will do whatever we can between now and the last two weeks of term to review and revise things if the possibility of doing so arises, as well as continue to explore ideas for a 'final farewell'. Thank you to the kind offers of resources and ideas to help with this; we are very grateful. We will continue to monitor the situation to see if we can extend things to be able to offer some overlapping days for both groups but this will be wholly dependent on what happens over the coming weeks, especially as our Key Worker provision continues to grow. However, any overlapping times will still mean that the children will have to stay in separate groups and social distancing measures will need to be in place throughout their time at school. I know some of you have raised concerns over the disruption to the children's education and social interactions and we absolutely agree that the situation is not ideal for anyone and a particularly challenging time for our children. We have done what we can to try and continue to support our families with the home learning materials and to introduce transition activities, such as the Zoom sessions mentioned later in this letter, to help through this difficult time and to allow all children, including those not returning, to still interact.

Mrs A Harvey

Year 6 Class 'Zoom' meeting – Thursday 18th June 2020 11.30am – 12.30pm

Following the success of our Zoom meeting last half term, we would very much like to invite your child to the above meeting. We are keen to catch up with all of the children and to help them prepare for their transition to Secondary School. The purpose of the meeting is to have some fun, spend time as a class and think about their next steps. Any children who are attending school as part of our Keyworker bubbles will be able to access the meeting in school. We will send the Zoom meeting ID and password, along with a link to the meeting in a separate email. Please do not share these.

In preparation for the meeting it would be helpful if the children could think about two things:

1. Their happiest memories of being at High Hesket School – these can be from any year group, not just Y6.
2. Their hopes and concerns for Secondary School.

We will be discussing these as part of our Zoom meeting.

Although it has become a very popular and well used social platform, we are aware that 'Zoom' did receive some negative attention in the press, particularly earlier on in lockdown. This was due to hackers being able to access and enter meetings without permission and I believe that Zoom has since tightened up on their security measures. However, it is important to note that all technology involves some element of risk and so I thought it would be useful to share some of the measures we are taking to keep our class sessions as secure as possible. I am afraid we cannot guarantee complete security with any platform that we choose to use but are doing everything we can to ensure we

protect the session as much as we can. If, however, you do feel that you would prefer not to take part due to any concerns you may have, please remember that the session is not compulsory and it is parental choice as to whether the children take part.

By allowing your child to join the meeting you acknowledge that it is not possible to fully promise meeting security and recognise the security measures we are taking. These are outlined below:

Security measures:

- Each session requires a password to join and parents have been asked not to make passwords public.
- Participants will enter a 'waiting room' and can only enter the main session when admitted by the host.
- The session will have multiple staff members present, one of whom is solely responsible for monitoring participants.
- If there is any indication that the session has been compromised, the host will immediately end the meeting for all.
- The session is being recorded.
- Only the host will be able to share anything on their screen.
- The session will be 'locked' 2 minutes after it has started so please be prompt!
- We are asking all participants to be mindful of communication, clothing choice and setting when joining.
- There must also be no filming, photographing or taking screenshots of the session in any way.
- There must be a supervising adult present on screen at all times.

Additional steps we need you to take:

- **When joining the meeting, you will be asked to type in a joining name. Please complete this with your child's first and last name. This will allow us to be clear on who is accessing the session when we are admitting participants but will also make it easier for the host to speak to everyone.**
- Ensure you arrive to the meeting on time to avoid being locked out.

Please contact us via the homework or office email if you would like any further information.

Yours sincerely,

L. Day *J. Ager*

Mrs L. Day and Mrs J. Ager
Y6 Teachers