



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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14th September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Autumn term. We were so pleased to finally welcome the children back into school and have thoroughly enjoyed our first few days with the Reception children. I have detailed below some key information that you might find helpful over the coming weeks, as well as a few reminders of some of the steps we have had to take to ensure the safety of our children as well as the school community as a whole. Please remember that if you need to chat with me about anything then please get in touch. The best way to do so at the moment is via my email, jane.rennie@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk and we can arrange a suitable time for a phone call if necessary.

Spare Clothes, Wellingtons, Waterproofs and Outdoor Clothing

We are very lucky to have such a wonderful outdoor area and the children have access to this on a daily basis. If you haven't done so already, could you please provide a pair of (named) wellingtons to be kept in school for outdoor play, as well as accessing the field during playtimes. Children should also have their coats with them on a daily basis, although we do have a small supply of waterproof jackets and trousers for wet and windy play.

Some of the children may occasionally need a change of clothes. You are more than welcome to leave some spare clean clothes in your child's book bag or in a bag on their peg. We also have some spare clothes within the unit. If your child is sent home in spare school clothing, could we please ask that you wash and return these items in a carrier bag. We will then store them for 72 hours before putting back into our spares box!

Tapestry

We will continue to use our on-line learning journal 'Tapestry', adding observations of your child over the year. You can access these observations and even add your own so that you can share your child's achievements away from school. If you need any further support with Tapestry, please let me know.

Our Topic

For the first few weeks we will be focusing on settling in activities and learning our new routines. We will also be finding out about ourselves and each other's families. To help the children with this, we will look any photographs from the summer holidays that you may have added to Tapestry. There is still time for you to add a few photos to Tapestry of anything you have done as a family or of a place you have visited with maybe a couple of sentences of information to help us to prompt your child whilst sharing their photos with the rest of the class.

PE days

In Reception, the children are physically active every day and we make the most of our fantastic outdoor area. In addition to this, we also have focused PE sessions where we teach specific skills such as throwing and catching, dodging and teamwork. We do this during our allocated PE lessons which this term will take place on Tuesdays, commencing Tuesday September 22nd. We are asking that, on these days only, the children come to school already dressed in their PE kits which they will wear for the day. A reminder that the school PE kit consists of a white t shirt (an optional white t-shirt with the school logo on can be purchased from the Uniform Shop in Carlisle) and black shorts, tracksuit trousers or leggings. The children should come to school in their school sweatshirt/cardigan on these days but may wish to have a change of sweatshirt/hoodie to change in to for the PE session. We do also ask that children have footwear with a suitable sole for outdoors, ideally trainers rather than plimsols.

Water Bottles

Each child has a water bottle in Reception which we will send home at the end of every day for washing and refilling. Please try to remember to bring your child's water bottle to school every day. The tops of the bottles do tend to get chewed so if you require a new top, they are available for 10p, or you can purchase a new water bottle for 50p. These can now be purchased from the classroom. (Please note, the clear water bottles are not dishwasher safe!)

Passwords

We have a password system for home time to ensure the safety for all of the children. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, you are unable to pick up your child, please could you make sure whoever is picking up your child has a password. We then know that the request to pick your child up is genuine. I would be grateful if could you send me an email (address above) with your chosen password and we will then keep this safe in school for emergency situations. If you provided this last year, please still send me an email to ensure our records are correct.

'Make and do' area.

The 'make and do' area is a very popular part of our provision. It contains a selection of junk modelling materials which have been brought in from home by children and adults. The materials have been quarantined for at least 72 hours before the children can use them to ensure they are safe. Once the children have made a model, the model is then placed out of reach of the others and taken home by the child that day. If you would like to donate some junk modelling materials, these would be very gratefully received. Please send them into school in a carrier bag with your child.

Read, Write, Inc.

Once the children have settled into class, we will be starting to introduce Read, Write, Inc. phonics with them all. I understand that this approach to teaching reading and writing is familiar to some of you, but new to others. To help explain how we approach learning to read in school I would

normally hold a reading information meeting in school. However, as this is not possible at the moment, I am exploring different ways of delivering this information to you. I will shortly be in touch with further details.

Reminders regarding dropping off and collecting procedures:

One-way system

As the staggered end to the day will mean cars will be arriving and departing at different times, it is imperative we maintain a smooth flow of vehicles. We are requesting that all adults collecting in vehicles utilise the one-way system suggested through consultation with the police, **entering at the Penrith end of the village and leaving via the Carlisle end.** This will mean all cars are travelling in the same direction. Please do not carry out u turns outside of school as this can create issues for other cars as well as increasing the risk to pupils. Please ensure any extended family members or friends who may also collect are informed about the collection arrangements.

Parents on site

To facilitate social distancing when dropping off and collecting children, we are requesting that only one adult comes on to the school grounds.

Thank you again for your cooperation with all of the above arrangements and please remember if you have any queries about anything please do not hesitate to get in touch via the e-mail address above.

Jane Rennie (Reception class teacher)