



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

High Hesket, CARLISLE, Cumbria CA4 0HU TEL: 016974 73386

Head teacher: Mrs A Harvey

Email: head@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk Website: www.high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk

Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parents,

It is the end of another busy week and the children have continued to excel at following our new ways of working and showing real empathy and understanding throughout this time. I would also like to extend another thank you to all our families for helping make our collection and drop off arrangements work so smoothly at the moment. As always, there are a few things to share and so I have outlined some key updates and reminders below.

Twitter

You may already know that we have a school Twitter page which can be found by searching @highhesket on the Twitter website or app. We use this to upload examples of what we have been doing in class and, most recently, have shared examples from our whole school transition projects.

Google Classroom

Schools have been asked to prepare remote learning options for the eventuality that a class or 'bubble' may have to close due to a confirmed case of COVID-19. Over the summer holiday period, we secured funding in order to set up Google Classroom and staff are currently finalising the arrangements for how this will be used. Should we notify you of the need for your child to isolate for 14 days, staff will be in contact to share login details and will use Google Classroom to upload tasks, links and resources that will support the children to continue their learning at home.

School lunches and water bottles

Just a reminder that the school menus are available on the school website. If any children have any specific requirements or would prefer the jacket potato option, school will need to be notified in advance to ensure we have the options available. This can be done by emailing the school office on head@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk or notifying a member of staff.

We have changed our normal water bottle arrangements this year due to the need to limit queuing at water fountains and tap areas. Children are now able to come to school with their bottle pre-filled but please can I remind parents that this should be **water only**. This is for a number of different health and safety reasons and we do really appreciate your support with this.

Congratulations Miss Baird!

We are delighted to announce the arrival of Miss Baird's new baby daughter who was born on Wednesday. Huge congratulations to Miss Baird and her family!

Winter weather

The weather has certainly been changeable in recent weeks and we are starting to experience some cooler, wetter days. As we move towards winter, I do need to mention that we will continue to use the outdoors as much as possible even in poor weather conditions. We would strongly recommend that the children have access to a change of footwear, ideally wellies, and warm, waterproof clothing on a daily basis. Each bubble will have their own set of welly racks so that a pair of boots can be left in school.

Christmas!

Whilst it seems far too early to mention Christmas, I am sure you can appreciate that there will need to be some changes to how we celebrate key dates in the annual calendar. Unfortunately, our normal Harvest celebrations have not been able to go ahead and we will also be unable to offer our usual Christmas performances and Carol Services. However, I do want to reassure you that, whilst we cannot share our celebrations with parents in the normal manner, we will be doing everything we can to make sure we have plenty of festive activities in our bubbles when the time comes.

Birthdays

Unfortunately, under the current circumstances, we are unable to allow children to bring in birthday cake or sweets to send home. We are really sorry for this but I'm afraid it is just not possible at the moment; thank you for your understanding.

Notifying school of changes to collection of children

Whilst we would encourage families to try and collect children using adults from your own family or support bubbles where possible, we recognise that there may be times when children are collected by other adults. If there is a change to your normal collection arrangements, please ensure that the school is notified as we are unable to release children to another parent unless the child's parent has given specific permission. This can be done by phone or email to school or by informing the member of staff on duty at the gate. If you have a long-standing arrangement that we are already aware of, there is no need to inform the school. If you are requesting that an adult outside of your household or support bubble is collecting, we will assume that those involved are adhering to any government guidelines relating to social distancing etc.

Reminder of start and end of day procedures

Although I am aware many of you are kindly adhering to our collection and drop off arrangements, in light of the recent Government announcements of increased restrictions, it is important to mention that we have to be strict in regards to how we manage groups of parents on site at the start and end of the school day. If I could use this opportunity to remind parents of the following:

- Please utilise the one-way systems in place, even in poor weather. **The main gate should not be used as an exit**
- Please ensure only one adult enters the school grounds to collect children unless pre-arranged with staff
- Please adhere to the arrival / end times for your child and **arrive as close to the designated time as possible**. This is also applicable to the children entering independently as we need to limit groups of children waiting to be let into school to avoid bubbles mixing
- Please keep your child with you whilst waiting for siblings and ensure social distancing is followed
- If you have children in more than one Key Stage, please drop for the earliest time (8.35) and collect at the later time (3.25). Please do not collect at the two different times as this will require waiting on site
- If your child is in Key Stage 2 and there are no younger siblings, they should arrive for the 8.50 start only
- Please leave the site promptly as soon as all children are collected

Your understanding with this is very much appreciated and I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey