



## HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents,

The half term holiday is nearly upon us and I'd like to begin this newsletter by reiterating how grateful I am to our whole school community for the support we have had through this unusual start to the school year. It has certainly been a difficult time for all of us but the pupils continue to impress us with their ongoing resilience. I would also like to use this opportunity to publicly thank the staff who have worked extremely hard to keep our school moving forward despite the challenges of the current situation. Although this year will be very different to normal, we are looking forward to new adventures and are excited to enter in to the second half of the autumn term where we will begin to embrace the festive season.

### Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

As in previous years, we will be selling items from the Royal British Legion throughout the week commencing Monday 2nd November. The suggested donations for each item are as follows: wristbands £1, reflectors 50p, zip pulls 50p and snap bands £1.50. Please be aware that we do have a limited number of each item so we may not be able to accommodate everyone's requests. The items have been quarantined prior to sale and we do ask that the children take the items home rather than using them in school. Money can be brought in during the week and will be collected by the class teachers.

### Flu vaccinations

You will have already received and returned the consent forms indicating if you would like your child to receive the nasal flu spray as part of the national flu vaccination programme. The flu vaccination nurses will be coming to school on Friday 20th November 2020 and we will be adhering to their risk assessments whilst they are in attendance.

### Parents evening appointments

Traditionally, we hold parents evening appointments in the Autumn term and, after the half term holiday, we will be providing details on how these will be going ahead this year for Year 1-6. We are unable to hold face to face appointments in school so are currently finalising alternative arrangements.

### Outdoor Classroom Day

Outdoor Classroom Day is an important part of our school calendar and, this year, it falls on Thursday 5th November 2020. Our theme for this year will centre on wildlife and habitats and we have arranged for Silverband Falconry to visit as part of the day's events. They will hopefully introduce the children to some wonderful birds of prey which will also prompt some different class projects. Their visit may mean that multiple bubbles will need to be involved in activities at the same time but we will still be ensuring that the bubbles are kept separate and social distancing is maintained. It would also be worth noting that we will spend much of the day outside so the children should be prepared with wellies, waterproof coats and any other appropriate items.

### M&M Productions 'The Wizard of Oz'

The run up to Christmas is when we normally enjoy our school theatre trips but, unfortunately, we are unable to do so this year. However, M&M Productions have produced a carefully risk assessed, COVID adapted performance of 'The Wizard of Oz' which they will come to school to perform on Friday 27th November 2020. It will involve an actor interacting with a large screen in the school hall and will be performed to two bubbles at a time with social distancing in place between the classes. We have worked with M&M productions before and their performances are always hugely enjoyable and great fun!

### Donations for events

To make both the M&M performance and the falconry display possible, we would greatly appreciate a donation of £3.50 per child towards the cost of the events. This will be added to Schoolmoney and, if you are able to contribute, can be paid between now and the end of the Autumn term.

### **Schoolmoney**

We will continue to utilise Schoolmoney as our main method of payment during the school year. We would ask that any outstanding monies from the last academic year are paid by the end of half term to enable us to reconcile our accounts. Please do feel free to contact the school if you wish to discuss any outstanding payments or have any queries.

### **PTA**

We are lucky to have a dedicated and enthusiastic Parent Teacher Association who are continuing to fundraise for the school despite the current difficulties. We are extremely grateful for their support and for any donations we receive as they make a significant difference to what we are able to offer the children. Please look out for their newsletters, including information later this week about the most recent 'Smartie Kindness Challenge' which will run over half term. Any money raised will go directly to supporting the school and providing resources and events for the children to enjoy.

### **Children in Need 2020**

This year, we will be supporting Children in Need by holding a non-uniform day on Friday 13th November 2020. A suggested donation of £1 can be brought to school on the day to raise money for this important cause. We will also be participating in the 'Five to thrive' theme and will be joining in with the wellbeing activities taking place throughout the week.

### **Precautionary bubble closure**

Earlier today, we made the decision to close our Year 6 bubble for a short-term period whilst test results for an individual with suspected coronavirus symptoms are pending. This has been a decision based on the individual circumstances of the case and we would like to stress that is a precautionary measure at this stage. We have contacted parents of close contacts directly and we will be making a decision as to how long the bubble will remain closed depending on the outcome of any relevant test results. I am extremely grateful to how supportive all parents and family members have been at this difficult time.

### **Dates for the diary**

Friday 23rd October 2020 - School closes for the half term holiday

Monday 2nd November 2020 - School reopens

Thursday 5th November 2020 - Outdoor Classroom Day

Friday 13th November 2020 - Children in Need non-uniform day

Friday 27th November 2020 - M&M Productions 'The Wizard of Oz'

Friday 18th December 2020 - Last day of term

Finally, another reminder that school closes for half term on Friday 23rd October 2020 at the usual time and will reopen on Monday 2nd November 2020. I wish everyone a restful break and look forward to seeing you all after the half term holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey  
Headteacher