



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term! This is always an exciting term as we head into the festive period and I am sure there will be lots to share as the term unfolds. You will all be aware, I am sure, of the recent announcement relating to a national lockdown and so we do ask for your continuing support with our routines and procedures as it is more important than ever that we work together to keep each other safe. We have not yet received any updated guidance for schools but we will keep you informed of changes as they occur and will continue to review and adapt our risk assessments as required. There are some important things to note within this newsletter as well as reminders of a few upcoming events and also some useful updates.

Outdoor Classroom Day – Thursday 5th November 2020

Just a reminder that our Outdoor Classroom Day will take place this Thursday so children will need a warm, waterproof coat and wellies. The children are also welcome to wear warm, comfortable clothing that does not need to be school uniform (similar to what they may wear for outdoor PE will be fine) although we do ask that they still wear their school jumper.

Our wellie racks have arrived!

We are pleased to announce that permanent wellie racks have now been fitted for our Key Stage 2 classes and have been attached to the external walls near to the green junior cloakroom doors. Children will have easy access to their footwear when heading outside to play and wellies will be stored upside down which should mean that they remain dry. It is worth mentioning that wellies will stay outside overnight during term time so we would recommend that the wellies that the children bring in are not an expensive make. If you have any questions regarding this, please do let us know.

CUFC coaching sessions / PE days

Year 2 and Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed their sessions with Carlisle United last term and it is now time for another two year groups to have the same opportunity so long as guidance allows for this to continue. This half term, Year 1 and Year 3 will have sessions on a Friday afternoon with the CUFC coaches. As a result, some classes may experience a change to their designated PE days but class teachers will be in touch if this is the case.

Golden assembly

We are continuing to celebrate the children's achievements with our Friday 'Golden Assembly' where we meet remotely to share good news and identify our Stars of the Week. We are also continuing our reward system which utilised 'golden tickets' and ten tickets can be exchanged for a gold card to spend at our half termly 'pop up shop'. We were concerned that our shop wouldn't be able to run in the current circumstances but our Year 6 pupils have come up with an inventive way to continue this as an online shop! Children can now spend their gold cards at the end of term online and the items they select are delivered to their classrooms having been put aside for 72 hours. Well done to Year 6 for a creative solution!

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

A reminder that we will be selling items from the Royal British Legion throughout this week commencing Monday 2nd November. The stock we have been provided is slightly different than in previous years and suggested donations for each item are now as follows: rubbers 50p, reflectors 50p, pencil sharpeners 50p, pencils 50p, rulers £1 although there are limited numbers of each item.

PTA Kindness Challenge

A huge thank you to those children and families who took part in the PTA's kindness challenge over half term. I have heard some wonderful reports about how the children earned their donations and we are very grateful for everyone's generosity.

Staffing updates

Following a planned procedure during the half term break, Mrs Winspear will be absent for the rest of this half term as she takes some time to recover. You may be aware that she spends time covering the teaching in some of our classes (Y1-Y4) and so we have arranged for Miss Kendall, an experienced teacher who has worked at the school previously, to cover in her absence. We look forward to working with Miss Kendall over the coming weeks.

Masks and face coverings

I have already mentioned that staff utilise face shields in some cases when working across classes. This term, we expect these to be used more regularly and staff will be wearing face coverings when moving around school outside of their usual bubbles. Although we are limiting parents in school, we do also ask that, if you are invited in to the building for any reason, such as to collect a child, that you come prepared with a face covering.

Early Years morning drop off arrangements

One of the key protective measures we have been asked to consider is limiting the number of parents on site. Now that the children have settled in to Reception and with the introduction of lockdown, we feel it would be a good time to trial asking the Reception children to come through the gate independently in the mornings **starting from Monday 9th November 2020** which will also be great for developing their independence skills. As usual, there will be a member of staff at the school gate to greet and to help guide them towards the Early Years unit and a member of the Early Years team will also be visible outside near the unit. If any parents of children in our Nursery class also feel that this is something that their children are ready for, they are also welcome to do so. However, parents of children in Nursery can continue to enter the site for the time being. If you have any concerns or worries, please feel free to contact Miss Rennie or Miss Carruthers who will be happy to discuss this further and it may be worth using the next few days to help support your child with preparing for this slight change.

School routines reminders

As we move into the period of lockdown, it is more important than ever that we continue with our safety measures both inside and outside of school. Please continue to bear in mind the following:

- **Do not bring your child to school if they show any of the three main coronavirus symptoms or if they are not well enough to engage with their learning**
- **Please use the staggered start and end times for your child and arrive as close to the designated times as possible**
- **Only one adult should enter the grounds to drop off or collect the children to help us limit numbers**
- **Please use the one-way system around the school grounds (enter via main gate, exit via field gate). Please DO NOT exit via the main school gate**
- **Please socially distance from other households whilst waiting for your child**
- **Please leave the site as soon as you have collected your child/ren**
- **Children should stay close to their parents at all times to avoid our bubbles mixing once school has ended**
- **Whilst waiting for EYFS or KS2 children near the green door, please do not cross the yellow line unless directed to do so by a member of school staff**
- **Please DO NOT park across the space directly in front of the large field gate to allow space for pupils and families exiting the gate**
- **Utilise our recommended one-way system when driving through the village (enter at the Penrith end, leave via the Carlisle end)**

Dates for the diary:

Thursday 5th November 2020 - Outdoor Classroom Day

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

Friday 20th November 2020 – Flu vaccinations take place in school

Friday 27th November 2020 - M&M Productions 'The Wizard of Oz' (subject to guidance)

Friday 18th December 2020 - Last day of term

As always, please do get in touch by telephone or email if you have any questions or require further information.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey