



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Tuesday 10th November 2020

Dear Parents,

Children in Need 2020

This week we are connecting with some of the BBC Children in Need 'Five to thrive' activities and will mark our involvement in Children in Need with a non-uniform day on Friday 13th November 2020. The children are welcome to wear their own clothes to school on Friday and we will be collecting donations in the children's classes (suggested donation is £1). The children may be taking part in some active sessions or in their normal PE lessons as well so clothing should be suitable for being active.

Remembrance Day 2020

On Wednesday 11th November, we will be holding a whole school 2-minute silence as a mark of respect and remembrance. You may also have noticed that we have filled the windows at the front of the school (Year 1 classroom, Year 2 classroom and the school hall) with our own poppy creations and I am sure you will agree that they are a striking display.

Supporting our school and village community

We are incredibly grateful to our families for ensuring they do not congregate on the school grounds once the children have been collected and also supporting our need to keep bubbles separate by keeping children with you whilst waiting. We also really appreciate that parents are following our one-way systems and being mindful of parking within the village. Our staggered timings are working to help reduce congestion which is impacting positively on the school and wider community. As we continue through this period of lockdown, it is important that we adhere to the national restrictions whilst collecting children and returning to vehicles and that communal areas of the village, such as the churchyard, are used safely and considerately, ensuring that children remain on the designated pavements and walkways through the village and church. We do politely request that, when travelling through the churchyard, that the children do not play near the graves and refrain from climbing on the stonework for safety reasons.

Staffing

The current circumstances present many challenges and it is worth mentioning that there might be times when your child's class teacher may be absent from school and is covered by another member of staff. We will always try to do this by reorganising staffing in a way that creates the least disruption to the children whilst also being mindful of risk assessment guidance. If the class teacher is absent, this may be for a wide range of reasons including attending training courses, general illness, medical appointments/procedures or statutory release time from class. Staff also need to adhere to government guidance and may need to respond to childcare disruption caused by their own child's school bubble closing, contact by track and trace or requirements to self-isolate. Please be reassured that you will be contacted with a notification letter should you have an increased need to be vigilant due to your child being identified as a close contact of any individual seeking testing.

Reception & Nursery morning drop off

We are incredibly impressed with how our youngest pupils have managed the new routine of being dropped at the gate in the mornings and we are very grateful for the parental support we have received. Unfortunately, the new restriction guidance directs schools to limit parent access to site as much as is possible and I know that there are many schools that have been unable to offer any parent interaction right from the very beginning of term. However, the Reception children have stepped up to the new change very well and even some of our Nursery pupils have felt confident enough to do the same! Well done Early Years!

Upcoming dates for the diary:

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)

Yours sincerely,
Mrs A Harvey