



## HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

The term is unfolding nicely and the children are continuing to impress us with how brilliantly they have adapted after such a long period of absence. It is wonderful to hear the classrooms full of chatter and to see the children interacting with their friends in their bubbles. We only have two weeks of term left and I would like to remind our families that **school will close for the Easter holidays at the usual time on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021** as the following day is Good Friday.

### Comic Relief fundraising

A huge thank you for all the support and donations for Red Nose Day. We have enjoyed playing our part in raising money for Comic Relief!

### Goodbye to Mrs Imrie

Sadly, Mrs Imrie will be leaving High Hesket CE School at the end of this term to take on a new role at Pennine Way Primary School. Whilst she will be very much missed, I know that she will thoroughly enjoy her new post and we wish her all the very best. Mrs Imrie has been a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant at the school since 2018 and has worked across several classes, although the majority of the time has been working alongside the current Year 5 cohort who I am sure will miss her greatly. Goodbye and good luck Mrs Imrie!

### Morning arrival

We are very grateful for everyone's support with the staggered timings and the inclusion of Year 3 in the earlier times has made a significant difference to the end of day collection arrangements. For those families whose children arrive at the earlier time of 8.35am in the morning, **please can we politely request that children do not enter the site any earlier than 8.30am**. We have quite a lot of logistics to organise, including additional cleaning, and so it is tricky for us to accommodate the children any earlier than 8.30am. We also want to avoid large groups of children waiting by the doors before they are opened as this will increase the likelihood of bubbles mixing. We will continue to endeavour to have a member of staff outside from 8.30am onwards to ensure the children are supervised as they enter.

### Lunch / snack

As mentioned in previous letters, we now have extra lunch sittings to ensure that we are keeping the bubbles separate and following our risk assessments effectively. As a result, it now takes a little longer to serve all of the children and so some children may eat their lunch at a slightly later time than they have in previous years. As a result, you may wish to ensure your child has a snack for morning playtime if they do not already bring one. Children in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 have free fruit provided by the government scheme but children in Year 3-6 are welcome to bring a fruit snack from home. Due to severe allergies within the school community, you may remember from our September class newsletters that we ask that the fruit snacks do not contain nuts and that mango, melon and kiwi is also not sent in to school.

### Homework

Now that we have settled into the full reopening, we are returning to the homework expectations set out in September. These will have been communicated in the class newsletters that were sent out in September and, in most cases, will involve engagement with an online maths program (Numbots, TT Rockstars or Maths Shed), spellings and regular reading at home. If you are unsure of the expectations for your child, please feel free to contact the class teacher who will be able to advise you further.

### Illness

I have attached a letter that we sent out last September as a reminder of our procedures when a child presents as unwell. We have no alternative but to follow the guidelines of Public Health England which does mean that we have to make decisions at times that can be inconvenient for families. We do ask for your support in ensuring that the children do not come into school if they are unwell and we also ask for your understanding that, if it is reported to us that a



child is presenting with any of the three main coronavirus symptoms (new, continuous cough, high temperature and loss of taste/smell), then we must direct parents to seek a PCR test. Similarly, if they develop any of those symptoms at school then we have no alternative but to contact parents and ask them to seek testing for their child.

### **Lateral Flow testing for households with primary aged children**

Lateral flow testing is now being widely used across schools and primary school staff are regularly testing at home to try and identify asymptomatic cases as quickly as possible. The government have now announced that lateral flow testing kits can be utilised by adults in households containing primary aged pupils to further support this. Below is information about how testing kits can be accessed. **Please note that this is to identify asymptomatic cases only and should NOT be used to test individuals with symptoms or to reduce a period of self-isolation.** If an adult or child develops symptoms of coronavirus, they should book a PCR test at a testing centre. Further information from the Department for Education follows on the next page and I have also attached a leaflet containing more information about lateral flow testing. The full link to the government guidance is:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?priority-taxon=b350e61d-1db9-4cc2-bb44-fab02882ac25>.

**Below is the information from the Department for Education guidance relating to the lateral flow testing arrangements:**

*If you're a member of a household, childcare bubble of a pupil, student or staff of a school, nursery or college, you can get a twice-weekly test:*

- *through your employer if they offer testing to employees*
- *at a local test site*
- *by collecting a home test kit from a test site*
- *by ordering a home test kit online*

#### **Get a test through your employer**

*Your workplace may offer rapid lateral flow testing to you. Contact your employer to find out more.*

#### **Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site**

*You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator.*

*You may need to book an appointment.*

[Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site.](#)

#### **Collect test kits**

*You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. Most collection points are open from 1.30pm to 7pm. You can check online if the location is open or busy before you go. You do not need to make an appointment. Do not visit a collection point outside opening hours, as it may be used to test people with coronavirus symptoms outside these times.*

[Find your nearest home test kit collection point.](#)

#### **Order home test kits online**

*You can order 1 pack of home test kits containing 7 tests for home delivery. Your tests should arrive within 2 days.*

[Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#)

#### **What twice-weekly testing involves**

*You will be asked to:*

- *take a test twice a week (every 3 or 4 days apart)*
- *report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day you take the test*

[Report your test result online](#) or by calling 119.

*If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should:*

- *self-isolate immediately*
- *get a PCR test to confirm the result*
- *follow the [stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)*



*Pupils, students and staff should also tell their school or college if they test positive.*

*A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus. But this does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus, so you should keep following all [coronavirus advice](#) including:*

- *regular handwashing*
- *social distancing*
- *wearing a face covering where recommended*

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs A Harvey