



19th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update for all year groups

I hope you are all well and continuing to keep safe. I wanted to provide you with an update from across the last week – we have lots to share with you regarding the weeks ahead.

In school provision

Our final groups of children have returned to school this week from Reception and Year 1. It is lovely to see more children coming happily back into school. In between the showers they are certainly making the most of our lovely outside spaces for learning, playtimes and exercise.

We had to make some quick adjustments to our staffing for one of the 'bubbles' when Mrs Downey was suddenly unable to be in school due to an accident at home. After an operation on her knee and a few days in hospital she is now home resting and getting used to the crutches. I know you will join me in wishing her all the best for a speedy recovery.

Remote learning

We continue to adjust and adapt our remote learning offer to support those children learning at home.

Weekly videos from the teaching team will continue for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. For KS2 classes these will now be replaced with a welcome to the week video each Monday morning from Rachel Rowe, with a book to share. There will also be an **assembly** on a Friday which, for the next few weeks, will focus on a theme of changes. Teachers will continue to provide a weekly timetable and set daily work. The set work for each day will now all be uploaded on a Monday. This is in response to some requests from parents who wanted the work earlier to give them time to prepare for the next day.

The changes above will enable us to offer children at home in Years 2 to 5 an optional chance to join a short **weekly zoom chat** with their teacher and other members of their class. We know that children and parents will really welcome this contact, which we now feel confident to offer as the initial concerns about the safety of using the zoom platform have been allayed through increased security of passwords and waiting room options. Each week the calls will take place at the same time and as part of the security we will send out the new password for your session weekly, the day before the meeting.

We ask that an adult is nearby for the session to supervise and also to offer any support with access and how to mute/unmute. Each class will be split into 2 or 3 groups by the teacher and will have a 15/20 minute chat within the hour allocated for each class. We ask that you ensure the name you log in with is recognisable to the teacher who can then allow access from the waiting room – ie surname or first name of child only and not just 'i-phone'.

The weekly slot for each class is as follows and details of your group will be sent out on Monday with the exact time of your call. Passwords will then follow the day before each meeting:

Year	Day	Times	No of Groups	Groupings
Year 2	Thursday	1.30pm to 2.30pm	2	Group A @ 1.30pm Group B @ 2.00pm
Year 3	Wednesday	1.30pm to 2.30pm	2	Group A @ 1.30pm Group B @ 2.00pm
Year 4	Tuesday	12pm to 1pm	2	Group A @ 12.00pm Group B @ 12.30pm
Year 5	Wednesday	11am to 12.30pm	3	Group A @ 11.00am Group B @ 11.30am Group C @ 12.00pm

Blogs and/or email are now set up for each class from Year 1 upwards to enable the children to communicate with the teacher and each other on a more regular basis. Year 5's new blog goes live on Monday so I hope they enjoy using that next week.

Today we are also rolling out the use of a programme called **Times table Rock Stars** with Years 2 and 3. The children in Year 4 have really enjoyed using this to support their quick recall of times table facts. A separate email with child specific log in details and a really helpful user guide will be emailed later today.

We are nearly there with our **library opening plans**. We have developed an online request form to both order a new book and advise us of any books you are ready to return. Once we receive a request from you, we will select books for your child and they will be packaged and then left for a period of 72 hours before being ready for collection. Any requests received by 11am on a Monday will be prepared for collection later that week. The collection times will be on a Thursday from 12pm – 2pm and a Friday from 10am – 12pm from the school front entrance. There will also be a box for you to return books. These will then be left for 72 hours before being cleaned and returned to the shelves. As with any new system there may well be some teething problems but we know you will work with us to get these resolved. If any parents cannot collect their books personally then please do let us know as we are confident that some parents will be prepared to deliver for other families if needed. We are really keen to get this system operational next week so that the children can enjoy new books in the weeks ahead and have some ready for over the summer holidays too.

Looking ahead

We are currently finalising details of the teaching teams for September. I hope to share these and our plans to support transition for the children with you next week.

We are also expecting further Government guidance on planning for September in the next few days. As a school we will continue to work with our Governors to find some way for all our pupils to be safely back in school in September.

We know that many families may well have been affected by job losses during this period. If your family situation has changed and you now feel you may be entitled to free school meals please do make an application. The Government have announced that support will continue for pupils entitled to FSM over the summer period, so making an application now could be really beneficial to your family. Further guidance can be found on the Herts Direct website

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Please know we remain here to support you in any way we can and respond to your questions. We will read and reply to any contact via the admin email or the remote learning account.

Sharon Barton
Head Teacher