



The Head's Lines.

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome all of our children and families back to school and have a different and yet familiar sense of normal return to our setting. The smiles each morning and, indeed, at the end of the day have been hugely appreciated and a clear indication of the positive start to this term. Thank You for the many kind and supportive messages we have received. We also appreciate your understanding as we continue adapting to the ever changing situation and guidance. Most importantly, thank you for continuously working with us to ensure we are able to reset and restart the learning journey for all our children. They have returned to school with great resilience and have been able to adapt to new routines brilliantly. I am so proud of them all! We continue to deliver the wide curriculum we have always strived to provide, with exciting learning opportunities and enrichment where safely possible. You may notice that our Diary Dates look a little sparse compared to previous years. Please be assured that we aim to include key events as usual, although, again, this might be very different than in previous years and we aim to provide adequate notice of these. We will be considering the best way to hold our Parent Consultations this term and details will be shared as soon as possible. There are also likely to be small changes needed to the current systems in place as we progress through the term. Please ensure that you have access to Parentmail, as this will continue to be the main method of communication used by school.

I would also like to personally say Welcome to our new Reception children and families and a number of new families who have joined the school community this year. I look forward to meeting you all on the school playground and more formally as soon as it is considered safe to do so.

On behalf of the Hexton staff team, thank you all again and we look forward to working together with you and your children in the year ahead. Stay safe and well.

Mrs Fenner

Summer Reading Challenge

Children are invited to share their success in completing this summer's 'Silly Squad' Reading Challenge during Friday class assemblies throughout September.



Breakfast Club

We are excited by the launch of our Breakfast Club on Monday 14th September! This will run from 7:30am – 8:50am each morning. Please see previous Parentmail information sent out earlier this week for details of how to book your child's place.

Primary & Secondary Admissions 2021

The application process for Secondary School admissions is now open with the deadline on Saturday 31st October 2020. Please note that this date is in the October half term holiday.

Online applications can be made on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions .

The application process for Primary admissions for children born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 opens on Monday 2 November 2020 with the closing date deadline of 15 January 2021.

We are reviewing how we can hold any **Open Morning** sessions for prospective parents whilst continuing to follow Covid 19 guidance. Further information and details of this will follow.

Attendance

We were delighted that we have had almost 100% attendance for each day this week in each class! It is usual at this time of year for many of our children to have colds and coughs. Whilst some schools are not accepting children in school with any symptoms of any illnesses, we feel that it is important that children attend school regularly and wherever possible. If your child demonstrates any of the Covid 19 symptoms, please **DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL**. Please follow the steps in the accompanying guidance. We will continue to ask parents to keep their child at home for a period of 48 hours following a bout of diarrhoea or vomiting and this will commence from the last episode of illness. We will continue to contact you if your child becomes unwell at school and needs to be collected to go home. This will obviously include when we feel a child may be demonstrating Covid 19 symptoms. In this case, we will ask for you to arrange for your child to be tested as soon as possible and not return to school until we have confirmation of negative test or your child has self-isolated for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. If your child is generally unwell, please also consider if it is in their best interest to be at school. Please contact the school office if your child will be absent from school for any reason.

Curriculum Information for Parents and Carers

Curriculum information and class timetables are being sent home with this newsletter – these enable parents to see what we will be teaching this term and how the days will be structured. The timetable also allows you to see when the children will be having PE lessons. On PE days children should come to school in their PE kit.

Online Safety News

The Autumn edition of Herts for Learning's Online Safety News is being distributed with this newsletter. Although some of the information is aimed at older children, it may be useful for families with older siblings. Please feel free to pass the information on to friends and family who may also find the content useful.

After School Multi Sports Club with Stevenage Borough FC.

We look forward to welcoming back Daryl Smith to Hexton and the afterschool Multi Sports Club. There remains no charge for children to attend this as school subsidises this club. Please let the school office know if your child would like to attend. It is open to all year groups and will end at 4:20pm.

Asthma and Allergy Register

We will shortly be updating the Asthma and Allergy Register for this academic year.

If your child suffers from asthma and has an inhaler, we need to place them on our Asthma Register. Any child suffering from an allergy should also be recorded on our files. Any pupils with EpiPens will need to have an updated Health Care Plan. Please liaise with Mrs Hibon or Mrs Butler in the school office.

Pupil Premium Funding and Free School Meals

Since the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals for Key Stage 1 pupils, there has been a significant reduction in the number of families applying for Pupil Premium/Free School Meals funding. If you have a child who has moved into Year 3, school meals are now chargeable. Therefore if you think you might be eligible to apply for Free School Meals, please visit the following website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or click on the following link [Free schools meals](#)

As a school we also benefit financially from funding for Pupil Premium pupils so even if your child is in Key Stage 1 we would encourage you to apply. Not only will the school receive additional funds, it also saves you having to remember to apply when your child moves into Year 3. If you need any additional information, please speak to Mrs Fenner or Mrs Bailey in confidence.

Schools across the country are reporting an increase in Free School Meal applications due to the effects of lockdown and subsequent job losses and reduced hours. If your circumstances have changed and you would like help in applying for Free School Meals, please speak to Mrs Fenner, Miss Pidgeon or Mrs Hibon or Mrs Butler in the school office in strict confidence. We would also like to reassure parents that Free School Meals information is dealt with sensitively and on a need to know basis.



Diary dates

Hexton School dates Autumn 2020

Monday 14 September	Parent Governor Election Nominations
Monday 5 October	Parent Governor Election Ballot
October	Black History Month
Monday 12 October	Y6 School Nurse Questionnaire
Monday 26 to Friday 30 October	October half term holiday
Saturday 31 October	Secondary School application deadline
Monday 2 November	Primary School application system opens
Monday 16 November – Friday 20 November	Anti Bullying Week
Friday 27 November	Occasional Day – School closed
Friday 18 December	End of Term

Term Dates 2020-2021

Autumn Term 2020

Wednesday 2 September - Friday 18 December 2020

Half Term: Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October 2020

INSET Day: Wednesday 2 September 2020

INSET Day: Thursday 3 September 2020

INSET Day: Friday 4 September 2020

OCCASIONAL Day: Friday 27 November 2020

Spring Term 2021

Monday 4 January – Friday 26 March 2021

Half Term: Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February 2021

INSET Day: Monday 4 January 2021

Summer Term 2021

Monday 12 April – Thursday 22 July 2021

Half Term: Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2021

Bank Holiday: Monday 3 May 2021

INSET Day: Friday 28 May 2021