



The Head's Lines.

A very warm, if slightly bumpy, welcome back to the second half of Autumn Term! Although the government restrictions are now in place for the country, we will continue to provide the safe and happy learning environment for our learners we know Hexton to be and build on the successes of last half term. As the countdown to Christmas begins, we also look forward to the buzz of excitement, the creativity and enjoyment that this season delivers. It will be very different but Christmas is definitely not cancelled at Hexton JMI School!

Whilst we all, as a staff team, continue to navigate our way through the changing situation, we once again thank you for your support, understanding, patience and co-operation in allowing us to safely teach and care for your children. We understand that, through uncertain times, there may be changes for you too, and we are here to support families in any way that we can.

We understand that it has been difficult for parents at times not to have the face-to-face contact with teachers as they would have done previously. However, we want to reassure you that we are still here and available for you all! Should you need to make contact with your child's class teacher, please continue to contact the school office by phone, or admin@hexton.herts.sch.uk via email in the first instance, and we will contact you directly as soon as we can.

Thank you again as we continue to work together in partnership.

With very best wishes

Mrs Fenner and the Hexton Staff Team

Remote Learning

We are very proud of how the children have already engaged with Google classrooms. It was a pleasure to see so many of them altogether in their class meets (despite some technical difficulties initially!) Please find attached the Remote Learning Plan for Hexton JMI School. This will be reviewed regularly but outlines the rationale and expectations for remote home learning at Hexton, in the event that individuals, groups of children or the whole school need to return to home learning remotely. You should have received logins for Google Classroom for each child but please let the school office know if you wish to receive it again.

Reading!

Learning to read is the most important skill a child learns at school as it is a gateway to all aspects of the curriculum. Thank you for the support you give your child at home on their reading journey. An important part of early reading is developing fluency. To ensure children enjoy reading and build confidence as they move through the school reading scheme, children are expected to read books that are fully decodable. Pupils are provided with challenge in their reading through texts they experience in the classroom and in guided reading sessions when they are taught particular reading skills appropriate to their age and development. We know that our recently purchased books, across the school, will support this. Please encourage your children to **enjoy, cherish and respect** this valuable resource. We hope to add some further classic titles, titles which reflect diversity and a number of new fiction and non-fiction texts in the coming weeks, which we hope will inspire readers at all levels.

Parent Governor Election

Mrs Kirstie Gran was the successful candidate. We welcome Mrs Gran in her capacity as governor and look forward to working together.

Breakfast Club

It has been great to see the popularity of our Breakfast Club increase. We still have places available so please let the school office know if you are interested in this.

Virtual School Tour

A massive thank you to Mr & Mrs Hall and all who have been involved in the production of our virtual tour – surely to be Oscar nominated! Please take a moment to visit <https://www.facebook.com/HextonJMI/> and share to those who might be interested. We also hope to have this available via our school website very soon.

Primary Admissions 2021

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 opened on Monday 2 November 2020 with the closing date deadline of 15 January 2021.

In light of the government's recent announcement, we will be reviewing the process of tours for prospective parents. Further details will follow. If you or someone you know are interested in a school place, please do email admin@hexton.herts.sch.uk or call to arrange a visit in the future.

Attendance

We know that it is often confusing to separate Covid symptoms from common colds and winter illnesses. 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 guidance we have previously released.

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 commencing 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 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 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.

Pupil Premium Funding and Free School Meals

You may have been aware of the campaign around free school meals over the half term holiday and how we can support vulnerable families in school holidays. Child poverty and hunger is an important ongoing issue and we all want to be sure children do not go without food during their time away from school.

Although the scheme to support families wasn't extended this Autumn half-term, there is help available for low income families at any time; we are able to make referrals for families that we are aware of and also guide families towards organisations which can support.

If you are or you know of a family who might need additional help, especially at this time of uncertainty, please be aware that HertsHelp is available for support:
www.hertshelp.net, info@hertshelp.net or call **0300 123 4044**.

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 strictest confidence. We would also like to reassure parents that Free School Meals information is dealt with sensitively and on a need to know basis.

Poppy Day Appeal

This year we will not be selling poppies in school but we are asking pupils to wear something red or a Brownie, Cub, Guide or Scouts group uniform on Remembrance Day – **11th November** – and to bring a voluntary contribution of £1 which will be passed on to the Royal British Legion.



Children In Need Appeal

We will celebrate the Children In Need appeal on **Friday 13 November**. Pupils are invited to come to school wearing something spotty and to make a voluntary donation of £1 which will be passed on to the BBC Children in Need Appeal.



Diary dates

Hexton School dates Autumn 2020

Please also see provisional term dates for the academic year 2021/22 below

Wednesday 11 th November	Remembrance day – dress in red!
Friday 13 th November	Children In Need Day – dress in spots!
Monday 16 November – Friday 20 November	Anti Bullying Week
Friday 27 November	Occasional Day – School closed
Friday 4 December	Christmas Jumper Day
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

Term Dates 2021-2022

Autumn Term 2021

Wednesday 1 September – Tuesday 21 December 2021

Half Term: Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October 2021

INSET Day: Wednesday 1 September 2021

OCCASIONAL Day: Friday 26 November 2021

Spring Term 2022

Wednesday 5 January – Friday 1 April 2022

Half Term: Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February 2022

INSET Day: Wednesday 5 January 2022

Summer Term 2022

Tuesday 19 April – Friday 22 July 2022

Half Term: Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June 2022

INSET Day: Tuesday 19 April 2022

Bank Holiday: Monday 2 May 2022

INSET Day: Friday 27 May 2022

INSET Day: Monday 6 June 2022