



## Weekly Newsletter

26 June 2020

Making learning an adventure

Our school value for this half-term is... **CONFIDENCE**

Parents/Carers and Children

We have had a brilliant week, with our Year 3 and Year 5 pupils returning to school for the first time since lockdown. As with the arrival of prior year groups, the children's enthusiasm and positivity has been wonderful to behold and it has been really heart-warming to see friends reunited at last! The children continue to be undaunted by our social distancing arrangements which are helping to maintain a safe distance where possible on site, but also to ensure that *bubbles* are maintained to keep interactions to a restricted group.



We have spent some time this week looking forward to the new academic year in September. The staff team underwent the first of a number of training sessions to evaluate the impact of the lockdown on the curriculum and to begin to make plans for September. This process is ongoing and will ensure that our approach takes account of learning missed during the Summer term and that gaps in skills and knowledge are filled before moving on to new content.

For example, this will ensure that children moving into Year 1 have the opportunities to develop the skills required to meet the standards in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) before the move on to Year 1 content, and those with particular gaps in each year group may be targeted for additional intervention through small group or one-to-one sessions. The sessions are being attended by new staff and are also providing excellent opportunities for teachers to hand over information on pupils' attainment to the teachers they will be with from September.

Also this week, we held the first of our socially distanced transition mornings where children who will be joining us in Reception in September visited with a parent for a tour and to meet their teacher and teaching assistant.

Looking ahead to September, we are still not clear what will be required of us in terms of COVID-security. The recent soundbites from the government about all pupils returning and schools operating in *whole class bubbles* makes it sound possible that we can expect to have all pupils in school every day, which we would really welcome as a school. However, please note that the suggestion of continuing the concept of the *bubble* does mean that it is likely that we would be continuing to operate a staggered start and finish to the school day. As ever, we will endeavour to get information to parents as soon as possible.

Lastly, I would like to share an original quotation from one of our Year 3 pupils in response to some work in class on the story of Pandora's Box and after a discussion about hope in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker  
Headteacher

'Always step on the bad things, like stepping stones to reach the good.'

Emily, Birch Class

## Further Information and Reminders

The weather this week has been glorious and staff are working hard to ensure that children have sufficient time in shade, when outside and keep hydrated. Please ensure your child has a sun hat and water bottle in school and arrives at school with a good coating of sun cream. Parents should select a high SPF and UV star rating and should purchase creams that do not need reapplying throughout the day, as we are unable to safely do this for the children in school and as most brands will provide adequate protection for about 6 hours if not washed off. [More information here](#).

### Reminder - School Meals from September 2020

Please note that the price of a Junior meal will be increasing from £2.55 to £2.65 a day from September 2020. This calculates to £13.25 a week, or £98.05 for the first half of the Autumn term.

Current Year 2 child moving up to Year 3 in September will no longer be eligible to receive Universal Infant Free School Meals. Therefore Y2 parents might like to take this opportunity to review their school lunch arrangements and the following options are available:

- a. School Lunch - Monday to Friday
- b. School Lunch - Wednesday Roast only with Packed Lunch on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
- c. School Lunch - Wednesday Roast & Friday Special with Packed Lunch Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
- d. School Lunch - Friday Special only & Packed Lunch Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
- e. Packed Lunch - Monday to Friday

If you wish to change your child's meal arrangements, please e-mail the School Office with the necessary details by Friday 10 July. After this time the usual requirement of half a terms notice to change lunch options will apply. There is no need to contact us if there are no changes to be made

## FoHBS News

A final plea for help. We still have no volunteers willing to co-ordinate FoHBS activities for the new school year. This is a sad situation and we are all aware that it means the school will not have funding for a huge range of things that our children rely on. Please please, please get in touch to help. We have a one pager which gives an idea of the role you play as Co-chair if you'd like to see info before committing. [Contact.fohbs@gmail.com](mailto:Contact.fohbs@gmail.com)

Link for donations for all of the school classes can be found [here](#). Some of our teachers have been receiving lovely parcels from Amazon for the children to use and enjoy – a BIG thank you to everyone who has already contributed with either cash donations or items from individual class wish lists.

We're excited to announce that the winner of the first ever High Beeches Great Virtual Class Race is...**REDWOOD CLASS!** They travelled a massive 392 km which is around the same distance as walking from Harpenden to Brussels in Belgium!

Congratulations to all the students who joined in. We were so impressed by everyone's willingness to get involved. All together you walked, ran, cycled or scooted over 1,600 km which is the equivalent of the new [Sky Mile Tower](#) in Tokyo or the distance from London to Lisbon...in Portugal!! A special trophy will be awarded to Redwood and a poster of all the photos you've sent in will be given to reception to display. Well done everyone! rh

SCHOOL CHAMPIONS!	REDWOOD (392 km)
Year 2 Champions	Hazel (289 km)
Year 3 Champions	Redwood (392 km)
Year 4 Champions	Pine (67 km)
Year 5 Champions	Hawthorn (247 km)

Leader Board	
Redwood	392
Hazel	289
Hawthorn	247
Willow	200
Birch	183
Ash	163
Pine	67
Maple	63