



Weekly Newsletter 10 July 2020

Making learning an adventure

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

Parents/Carers and Children

It has been brilliant to welcome back our Year 2 and 4 children this week (pictured above). They have enjoyed the opportunity to see some of their classmates before the Summer break and to begin their transition towards the next school year. Most classes have now met their new teachers for next year and any who haven't will do so in the week ahead. As a staff team we are really looking forward to getting cracking in September, when we hope school will feel, if not entirely, a lot more like normal for our pupils.

In the meantime, the teachers are putting together some home learning guides that give a focus for activities children could be doing at home during the school break, which will be published next week.

The children in Year 1 have been writing about their hopes and dreams this week and the following examples of super writing were sent to me during the course of the week.

I wish the coronavirus was over, so I could hug my friends and family again.
Emma

My first wish is to have five days of school again because I love school. My second wish is to run superfast because I wish I could do everything fast. My third wish is to ride a horse because I want to keep a horse.
Lily

Also this week, children in Year 5 and their teachers have been *road* testing a new batch of iPads recently bought by the school. I asked them for some feedback, a small sample of which you can see below.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Electra in Hazel Class who has been getting creative again, during the run up to returning to school this week and is selling her own range of greetings cards in aid of FOHBS. [Available online here!](#)

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Walker
Headteacher

I really enjoyed it, because it was easy to do things like animate and add sound effects. It was also nice having something to sign into, like our own personal account.
Sophie

I really enjoyed using the iPads yesterday because I never knew that Keynote had so many cool features! I also enjoyed doing quizzes on Kahoot!
Barney

I really like the iPads. There are lots of apps, such as Keynote, where you can do really cool things like moving objects. It also loads quite quickly.
Ethan

Returning to School in September

As parents will know, the government published its long-awaited guidance for the full re-opening of schools towards the end of last week. Although, the guidance stipulates that the school must continue to operate protective bubbles to minimise the number of contacts each pupil and member of staff has in school, alongside the majority of the existing protective measures, it does endorse a return to full classes of 30. This means that we will be able to accommodate the children in school full-time and, although we are expected to keep the movement of adults around the school site to a minimum, we do expect to be able to operate a full timetable including the use of subject specialist staff, such as for music and PE/games.

We will, however, still be required to operate a staggered day, in order to minimise contact between pupils in different bubbles. At the present time, we are unsure for how long these arrangements will be in place and will update parents as regularly as possible in line with government and local authority advice and taking account of the prevalence of Coronavirus in the local or wider community. In the meantime, our day will look as follows:

- ✓ Parents should bring their child to, and collect their child from, school promptly at the times given below and should avoid crowding around the school gates.

Year Group	Arrive at School	Collect from School
Year 6	8:30am	3pm
Year 5	8:35am	3:05pm
Year 4	8:40am	3:10pm
Year 3	8:45am	3:15pm
Year 2	8:50am	2:50pm
Year 1	8:55am	2:55pm
Reception	9am	2:45pm

- ✓ Those in Year 6 need not be accompanied by an adult, if their parents feel they are able to walk from home (if they live nearby) or from the car to school independently and safely. However, younger siblings should always be accompanied by an adult.
- ✓ Pupils in Year 5 and below, must be brought onto the school site by one parent or another responsible adult, following the existing one-way system. You will enter via the playground gate on the Willow Court side of the site and to leave via the playground gate near to the buildings and on through the pedestrian gate at the Ashwell Park side of the site.
- ✓ Pupils in Years 2 to 6 go directly into class.
- ✓ Pupils in Reception and Year 1 will line up on a marked grid, similar to the way they do now. Chestnut and Cedar classes' grid will be in the front playground and Oak and Elm classes' grid will be in the front carpark. Vehicles will not be allowed access to this area whilst the children are lining up.
- ✓ Those with siblings arriving at different times should select a time that most easily suits their family's needs and the sibling arriving at a different time to the rest of their class should go directly to class. Where parents would like to arrive at the earliest time, staff will ensure that the younger sibling is safely occupied in class.
- ✓ Hot school meals will be available to all pupils in Reception to Year 2, who will be able to eat in the school dining area. Those in Years 3 and above will eat lunch in their classrooms. The school caterer will be able to provide a packed lunch for them, which will include a choice of baguette fillings on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, hotdogs on a Wednesday and pizza on a Friday.
- ✓ Arrangements for collection at the end of the school day remain the same as they are now. Parents are requested to wait on the pavement outside the school gates and to be as punctual as possible, to minimise unnecessary contact with others and crowding outside the school. Pupils will be dismissed to one or other of the main gates as follows:

Year Group	Collect at	From Willow Court Entrance	From Ashwell Park Entrance
Reception	2:45pm	Chestnut	Oak
Year 1	2:55pm	Cedar	Elm
Year 2	2:50pm	Hazel	Willow
Year 6	3pm	Rowan	Sycamore
Year 5	3:05pm	Ash	Hawthorn
Year 4	3:10pm	Maple	Pine
Year 3	3:15pm	Birch	Redwood

- ✓ Those with siblings are requested to collect at the later time, at the end of the day and those leaving earlier will have a safe place to wait beforehand.
- ✓ Children are expected to wear full school uniform and to have PE kits in school all week in the normal way.
- ✓ All the children will be expected to bring a pencil case into school with the equipment listed by their year team. Other equipment and resources will be confined for use by individual class groups or will be cleaned before it is used by other groups.

Further Information and Reminders

We have had a very positive response from parents to the Vancols class photo montages, following the information sent to parents earlier this week. Remember to visit their website soon to order.

All young photographers are invited to enter this year's Rotary in Harpenden Young Photographer 2-21 competition. More information can be found [here](#).

FOHBS NEWS

NEW LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT!

We are excited to let you all know that Friends of High Beeches will be under new leadership from September. Please join us in thanking and welcoming Laura Howard and Kim Percival as the new Co-Chairs of FoHBS. Laura has a daughter starting Reception Class in September and Kim has a daughter in the current Elm Class in Year One!

I think it is safe to say that the 2019/20 Academic Year has been an unusual one and it looks set to continue into 2020/21. We will have to think carefully about safely bringing the community together and raising vital funds for our School so watch this space as Laura, Kim and the rest of the dedicated FoHBS committee take creative steps to take FoHBS forward.

We know we can count on the continued support of our wonderful school community. We have really appreciated your time and generosity that you have all recently shown. Your willingness to participate in the Great Virtual Class Race and with the class wish lists/donations has been amazing. School have had exciting deliveries for the classes and raised over £500 so far (they're still open!) which is incredible and entirely thanks to you all. If you are willing to help take on the challenge of fundraising in a virtual world then please do get in touch, we're always keen for new committee members with different skills and experiences to add to the table!

With that, we say goodbye, thank you and take care. Happy Summer Holidays everyone and all the very best to the outgoing Year Six students as they start the next school adventure!