

# Growing faith, Challenging minds, Discovering talents.



Higham on the Hill CE Primary School  
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## Weekly Newsletter

*Friendship Hope Respect Forgiveness Trust Creativity*

28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Issue No. 22

### Autumn Term 2020

It has been fantastic to welcome back all our children to school this week. Thank you for your patience during drop off and collection times. The current arrangements will remain in place until further notice.

The school office will be closed for face to face transactions. To speak to the office please telephone on 01455 212294 or email [office@higham-on-the-hill.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@higham-on-the-hill.leics.sch.uk). Please do email teaching staff with any concerns, they are more than happy to answer any queries you may have.

Please remember we are closed for the Bank Holiday on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

### Congratulations to Mrs Stradling

Congratulations to Mrs Stradling who will be leaving to have her baby on Friday 4th September. The baby is not due until October but we will of course let you all know when her new baby arrives. Her replacement is Miss Coape-Arnold. Miss Coape-Arnold will be in school next week on Thursday and Friday to meet all the pupils and work closely with Mrs Stradling for those two days.



### New Staff

We would like to welcome Miss Elpass and Mrs Foster to our school team. Miss Elpass is our new Head of School, she has many years teaching experience and has transferred from St Simon and St Jude Primary. Mrs Foster is working in Class 4.



### Information for the Autumn Term

#### Class Information

Today you will receive the Class Newsletter, Homework, Knowledge Organisers and a timetable for your child's class by email. Please look out for it in your inbox. This information is also be available to view on the website under class pages.

#### After School Clubs

Clubs are now open for the first half of the Autumn Term on Parent Pay, please log on and book your child's place.

### Twitter

For lots of information about what is happening please follow us on twitter @highamDLAT.



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## School Improvement Works

Before the summer holiday a new tyre park and outdoor gym were installed in the grounds. This was funded through our sports grant allocation. It has been great to see lots of our children enjoying this facility this week.



During the summer holidays Class 1 have seen some improvements to their outdoor provision. They now have access to a grass area, new bikes and trikes and some outdoor learning equipment such as planks and crates. Thanks to our Parent Association for helping to fund these new resources.

In addition, a suite of 10 computers were installed in the school hall which our Class 4 will immediately benefit from.



## Class News

Our Class 1 children have had a great start to the academic year. They are already making lots of friends.



Meanwhile Class 4 have been very busy. They have created stunning rainbow paintings in which the words and borders have been revealed from masking tape. They have also been explaining what it means to be 'top of the school'. They've thought about challenge, responsibility, politeness, respect and being a good role model.



We have been able to purchase whole sets of class reading books which will tie in with the school curriculum. These have arrived this week.

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## **Message from Leicestershire County Council**

Leicestershire County Council has published new practical guidance about returning to school on themes such as attendance, hygiene and school transport, as well as information about health, wellbeing and adapting to new routines.

Practical Information about returning to school in Leicestershire is available here

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/coronavirus-school-closures-and-updates>

Hints, tips and resources about managing worries and anxiety keeping fit, structured routines and eating healthily is available at [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/school-ready-2020](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/school-ready-2020)

Families are being encouraged to consider walking, cycling or scooting to school to keep healthy and help maintain social distancing. More information on sustainable ways to travel to school is available on [www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/covid-19-back-to-school/](http://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/covid-19-back-to-school/)

The council is also confirming its arrangements around home-to-school transport, for both mainstream pupils, and students with SEND. Further details are available at: [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/school-transport](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/school-transport)



## **Dates for your diary**

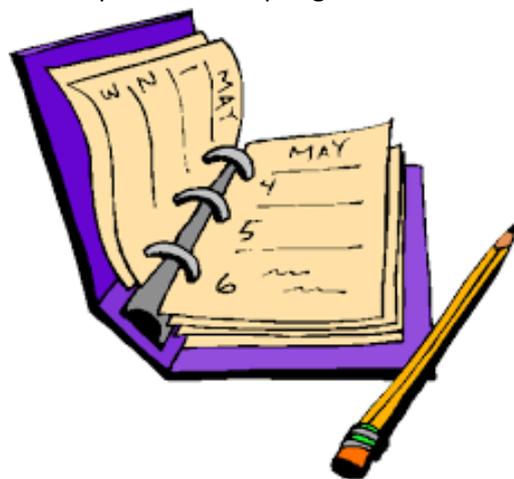
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August – School closed for August Bank Holiday

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 3.15pm - School Closes for Autumn Half Term

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 8.45am – School Opens for the second half of the Autumn Term

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 3.15pm – School Closes for the Christmas Holidays

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 8.45am – School Opens for the Spring Term



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## Internet Safety

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers & trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one topic of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints & tips for adults.

Smart devices promise to make our lives easier. And in many cases - they do. But these new technologies present risks too. Whether you're using a digital assistant to record your shopping list or you're controlling your lights through a smart system, many smart functions can be 'hacked' and controlled by someone outside your home. This guide will help you identify some of the ways you can stay alert and protect yourself.

### 1 KNOW THE RISKS

The success of any smart device relies on it communicating with other devices using the Internet. It's an unavoidable part of using smart devices, but it does expose you to numerous risks. Attackers could use the Internet connection to steal your data for identify fraud or to make unauthorised purchases through your devices. There is even potential for more sinister exploitation, such as child grooming or cyber-bullying.

### 2 WHAT IS THE INTERNET OF THINGS?

This is the term given to all the devices connected to the Internet in your home. It includes a new digital doorbell connected to your smartphone, your kettle that boils when you tell it to on your tablet or your heating that comes on when you swipe on your smart watch. The Internet of Things (IoT) is designed to make life easier, but it also opens up your home network to potential cyber-attacks. It doesn't mean you can't enjoy the benefits, but it does mean being aware of the potential negatives.

### 3 CHECK ENCRYPTION SETTINGS

Whenever data is sent over the Internet, it is 'encrypted'. This makes it harder to read if it's intercepted. You should look to use a strong encryption setting, such as WPA2, rather than WPA or WEP. Again, you can check your router manual for how to do this.

### 4 SECURE YOUR DEVICES

If you do use apps on your smartphone to control devices in your home, make sure your smartphone is secure. At the very least makes sure the pin function is enabled, as well as any biometric authentication you have. Where possible, it's also a good idea to download some anti-virus software for your smartphone.

### 5 KEEP YOUR SOFTWARE UP TO DATE

Manufacturers constantly update and improve software used in smart devices. Some will automatically alert you to an update, but not all do. To be on the safe side, it's a good idea to set reminders in your calendar. Check the manufacturer's website for any updates and run them if necessary.

### 6 RENAME THE 'GATEWAY' TO YOUR HOME

Your Internet router is the virtual gateway to your home network. It needs protecting. To do this, you should change the default name (the SSID) and password. You can usually find steps to do this in the instruction manual. Don't use your family name. Choose something more obscure. Make the password complicated too, using upper and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols. Do this for your router and any other smart devices connected to the Internet.

## 14 Top Tips To Get Smart About The DEVICES In Your Home

 National Online Safety®

### 7 USE A SEPARATE NETWORK FOR GUESTS

If your router has a feature that allows you to set up a separate network for guests, you should use it. That way, when guests use your Wi-Fi they won't have access to your devices.

### 10 TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If you ever feel something is wrong or your network is being exploited, visit the manufacturer's website or ring their technical support department. It's better to be safe than sorry.

### 11 UPDATE SOFTWARE

Manufacturers constantly update and improve software used in smart devices. Some will automatically alert you to an update, but not all do. To be on the safe side, it's a good idea to set reminders in your calendar. Check the manufacturer's website for any updates and run them if necessary.

### 8 SAY GOODBYE TO SIRI AND ALEXA

It's a good idea to change the activation words on your smart devices so they are unique to you and your family. This makes it that much harder for people to break into your smart devices.

### 9 DEACTIVATE ANY UNNECESSARY FEATURES

Though it's a fun idea, you probably don't need to control your kettle from outside the house. In fact there are often many unnecessary features included on smart devices. Where possible, you should look to disable these. Doing so reduces the ability for people to hack your devices. And, when someone sees you've actively taken steps to increase security, they're less inclined to try to compromise them.

### 12 BUILD A WALL

You could also purchase a dedicated 'firewall' device. This is something that plugs into your network and stops cyber threats reaching your router. Some routers do have a firewall element included, but they are no replacement for the real thing. A firewall device thoroughly analyses information coming into and out of your network and helps stop malicious attacks. A security device is strongly recommended to anyone who works from home or deals with sensitive information.

### 13 SECURE YOUR SMARTPHONE

If you do use apps on your smartphone to control devices in your home, make sure your smartphone is secure. At the very least makes sure the pin function is enabled, as well as any biometric authentication you have. Where possible, it's also a good idea to download some anti-virus software for your smartphone too.

### Meet our expert

Emma Davis was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than decade. Since leaving education, she has been working in a cyber security firm delivering cyber awareness training to businesses and carrying out network testing. She is a mother of a five-year-old, she's had vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.



### 14 REGULARLY AUDIT YOUR DEVICES AND CONSOLES

Every now and then you should check through all of your smart devices (including games consoles connected to the Internet). Turn them off at the mains and disconnect them from the Internet. In fact, it's good practice to disconnect any devices that aren't in use. It's a small thing but really does help. Even when you think a device might be in sleep mode, if it's connected to the Internet it could still be listening or streaming data.

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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For more information visit <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

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