



HAWRIDGE & CHOLESBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

OUR SCHOOL VALUES: RESPECT - UNDERSTANDING – PEACE – HONESTY – RESPONSIBILITY - TEAMWORK

Hawridge, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 2UQ
Telephone: 01494 758368 Fax: 01494 758629
Email: office@hawridge-cholesbury.bucks.sch.uk
Website: www.hawridge-cholesbury.bucks.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Rosie Phillips

'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 13:34

23rd May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

This half term's value is **Teamwork**

Summer Term Newsletter No. 4

I can't believe another half term is now coming to an end. I know it has been tough for so many people. I am so proud of how well you have all managed your Home Learning and kept positive during this time. I am sure, like me, you are hopeful that some of the necessary restrictions will gradually reduce over the next few weeks and months and that it won't be long before you can meet up with your friends, albeit under very different 'socially distant' circumstances. Tempting as it is to relax about the distancing and hand washing, I would urge you to keep to the rules this half term, socially distancing and not meeting up with each other, other than in the way the government have advised. The hope is that the longer we can hold out, the more effective everyone's hard work up to this point will have been and a serious second peak can be avoided.

E-Schools academy

IT has been a regular feature of my newsletters and messages to you during this time. The staff and all families have managed extremely well in working flexibly, using different technologies and I know at times with very limited resources. I am pleased to say that after half term we will be using eSchools Academy in order to post all Home Learning work both during this time and once we are back at school fully. Prior to the first week after half term, you will be sent password details and instructions as to how to enter the Academy which is available through our school website. We will keep emails open for the first week whilst you become familiar with the system but beyond that all communication regarding Home Learning will take place over the eSchools Academy platform. I am hoping that most families will find it fairly straightforward to use.

Windmills children will continue to use Tapestry to upload work. Emails will continue initially whilst families move over to the new eSchools Academy system for communication regarding Home Learning. Mrs Wale will communicate further with her class regarding this.

Phased Return and Re-opening of Primary Schools

You will have received messages from me earlier in the week. At the moment we await a decision from the government on the 28th May regarding this. We have compiled a list of FAQs for children due to return in phase 1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 6) in addition to further resources compiled and a letter from our SENCOs to help prepare children and families for a possible return. Phased return at Hawridge & Cholesbury C of E School will be for 2 days a week starting in the selected year groups with more year groups joining for 2 days a week when appropriate.

At the point that I confirm a date for the phased return to begin, I will be asking parents to commit to a decision about their child returning in order to plan staffing. Parents can review their decision each week but I would ask that you communicate your requested changes by midday of the Wednesday of the week before.

As more staff are expected to be in school for more days after half term, the communication with 'home learners' will naturally need to be reduced somewhat (including for those year groups which have not yet been prioritised by the government). Work will be uploaded for the week on the eSchool Academy part of the website and allocated to days. If your children are due to be in school later in the week of the work set, please do not complete those days work with them earlier as this will be done in school. Teachers will not be responding to uploaded work in quite the same way, but will respond to queries as needed and as is manageable with their increased face to face role. Please note even if your class are not back in school, staff will still be expected to be in school more after half term.

Critical Worker Places for Children

I am getting an increased number of requests for children to join our 'Critical Workers' Bubble' in school. Places are allocated each week and requests need to be made by midday of the Wednesday the week before. Letters from employers are required explaining why work is 'Critical to the Covid 19 response'. We are restricted on the number of places we are able to offer and would urge parents to use alternative safe options if they have them. If one parent is working from home, we would ask that the children remain with them rather than a request be made for a place in the group. As classes return to school we hope that parents' work will allow flexibility so that children can attend their cohort bubbles. This is a good option for the children if at all possible. I really do appreciate that this is very hard for some families and may not be possible; please be assured we will do our utmost to support in whatever way we can, so please contact the school if you have worries.

Some of you have requested places for the week beginning 1st June and these will confirmed by Friday 29th May, if not before.

Schools Trips/ Reimbursing

Some of you have paid either deposits or full amounts for school trips or events. We have held off in the hope that it may have been possible to re-book trips before the end of the school year. This is now not looking possible. I am sure many of you are anxious to be reimbursed and Mrs Jones from the school office will be in touch with you after half term regarding this money.

This week's Music ...

I haven't forgotten that I promised to make another video for you and will be in touch when this is available. In the meantime, this week's piece of music was sent to me by Mrs Kretschmer who received it from her church. It is a blessing from churches all over the country and is a very beautiful, peaceful listen to end our half term with. Maybe you, like me, will listen and watch out for contributions from churches where your family and friends are all over the country; another connection to people at this time. Click [here](#) to listen to the blessing sung by churches all over the country.

Finally, I do hope that you all have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend and Half term break, keeping safe and enjoying the unlimited exercise we are now being invited to take. I will continue to update you as new information becomes available.

Kind regards

Mrs R Phillips
Headteacher