

Harleston C.E. Primary Academy

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Interim Headteacher: Mrs M Foreman

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Update from Headteacher to Parents/Carers

Dear all,

Thank you for your continued patience as lockdown continues. Apparently, according to all kinds of media speculation, we are on the verge of the constraints of lockdown being relaxed and we all await the announcement to be made by the Prime Minister on Sunday with keen anticipation. Hopefully it will be made very clear about the timeline that will be in place for schools to be fully reopened, but I do expect for there to be an intention for some children to return to school after the half term holiday. Who this will be is subject to intense debate with no one source being quite able to agree with another one as to who the government is intending to be first to return. However, as you know, I will not be opening up the school to more than just the children of our Key Workers and those deemed to be in need of being in school unless I can have a plan in place that ensures the safety and well-being of everyone.

This morning I have had a lengthy video conference call with the other headteachers of the St Benet's Academy Trust, the Chief Executive Officer - Mr Cranmer, the Academies Improvement Director - Mr Nixon and the Finance Officer for the trust - Mr Fannon. We discussed a wide range of concerns, including how we can successfully open as schools once more. We will be meeting again via video conference on Monday morning to discuss the announcements made by Boris Johnson on Sunday and how we, as an Academy Trust and separate schools, will move forward with our plans and preparation of the return to school of small groups of children.

I will write to you again on Monday to share with you the plans that we are starting to make so that you can be fully informed of what will be happening every step of the way.

Home learning

The teachers, led by Mrs Beaumont have all been discussing how they can build on the success of Castles week - and it has been incredibly successful with lots more children joining in the learning with their whole family, including the adults. I have certainly enjoyed looking at children's work this week and been able to pass on many comments that praise their involvement in their learning.

I would like to say how proud I am of all the children for engaging in their learning and continuing to make progress, but I am equally as proud of all of you at home - parents and carers - who have taken on the role of teacher and are doing such an amazing job.

The longer the lockdown has gone on, the harder it has been for you to motivate your children and keep them engaged so thank you for battling on.

It is also so difficult if you have more than one child, especially if you are also trying to work from home too. To try and make things easier for you the teachers at school have decided to teach all our children through the same weekly theme. Hopefully this will ease the pressure on you all. We will start this in the week beginning 1st June.

You will be pleased to know that you will only be supporting home learning until 22nd May and then you can have a holiday and you can all have a well-deserved rest. Please enjoy the half term holiday when you get there! Stay safe and well.

Success for Henry

We love to celebrate our children's successes, so it is fantastic to share that Henry Brown has gained the top Beaver's award- the Bronze Chief Scout Award. Over the last two years Henry has attended meetings, taken part in parades, attended overnight camps, taken part in all six of the challenge awards - a feat in itself - and completed a whole armful of activity badges.

Henry is only the second or third member of the Harleston Beavers to ever receive this accolade. It



goes without saying that here at school we are all enormously proud of Henry and if we were in normal times Henry would be celebrating his success in front of the whole school. Instead, we can just celebrate his success in front of the entire Harleston school family.

Don't hesitate to tell the school about any successes for your child - and if you are happy for us to do so, I will happily include them in my updates to you. After all, we all need to celebrate good news stories!

I hope that even with lockdown, you enjoy a great VE Bank holiday on Friday and have special family time together.

With my best wishes,
Mary Foreman
Interim Headteacher