

Harleston C.E. Primary Academy

School Lane, Harleston, Norfolk. IP20 9HG

Tel: (01379) 852302 / 853211

E-mail: office@harleston.stbenets.org

Website: www.harleston.stbenets.org



Interim Headteacher: Mrs M Foreman

26th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Learning

More on home learning to follow on from the last update.

Here at HPA we all know that some children are finding it even harder to stay focussed on their home learning and complete the tasks set each day. As we reach the last few weeks of term it is essential to maintain some sense of learning at home so that there is less of a difficulty for children when they do return in September. In my last update I wrote about how it can be best to start with a task that you know your child will find easy to complete and submit online - that way they have had a positive start to the day.

I've been having a good look at all the classes learning that has been posted this week and it would be great for me to be able to make comments to every child at least once next week - so if you want your child to get a personal message from me make sure they complete one learning task for me to respond to!

Keeping children safe online

It is important to have regular conversations with your child about staying safe online and to encourage children to come to you if they come across something worrying online.

There are lots of resources that can help you with this including supporting you to talk with your child about a number of online safety issues, set up home filtering in a friendly way, and set up age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices:

- Thinkuknow (www.thinkuknow.co.uk) by National Crime Agency-CEOP provides resources for parents and carers and children of all ages to help keep children safe online
- Childnet (www.childnet.com) has developed guidance for parents to begin a conversation about online safety as well as guidance for keeping under fives safe online
- Parent Info (www.parentinfo.org) is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP, providing support and guidance for parents related to the digital world from leading experts and organisations
- NSPCC (www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety) has guidance for parents
- UK Safer Internet Centre (www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carer) provides tips and advice and you can report any harmful content found on line through them

If you have downloaded new apps or bought new technology to help stay connected at this time, remember that to review and adjust privacy and safety settings if you or your child is signing up to a new online service.

The BBC has a website and app called Own It (www.bbc/ownit). The website has lots of content for children to help them navigate their own online lives and the free smartphone app comes with a special keyboard which can intervene with help and support in moments that children need it the most. It can be downloaded for free from Google Play Store and Apple App store.

SafeToNet (www.safetonet.com/foundation/covid/) is an app for parents to help them safeguard their children from online risks like cyberbullying and sexting, whilst respecting their child's right to privacy. The SafeToNet foundation is providing UK families with free access to one million licences during coronavirus. I've had a look at all these sites this week and can confirm they are very helpful.

Free School Meals over the summer holidays

The government has now issued advice for schools to follow so that families can receive the vouchers over the summer holiday. The school office will contact all eligible families and confirm whether they want to have vouchers issued to them. This offer from the government is only available to those families whose children are registered for Free School Meals. It is not too late to apply for Free School Meals if you think you may be entitled to receive them. Please contact the school office for further details.

COVID-19

We have continued to send home children who are feeling poorly - thankfully no one has experienced anything COVID related, but every child who feels ill is treated as if they **MAY** have the virus. Once again, please make sure your child is feeling well when you drop them off at school. They need to have had breakfast and a drink to set them up for the day.

End of term procedures

Sadly, we will not have all our end of year rituals this year and this is very sad for children in every year group. In school there will not be any transition to new classes as we have to retain the safety and security of children only being with adults directly linked to their pods. I hope to be able to make use of Google technology to set up a virtual meeting of children with their class teacher. Certainly, children in school will not know who their class teacher for September will be any earlier than children who are home learning.

Another change for this year will be the fact that we cannot send children's work books home because of the amount of time it would take to collate all these and the organisational issues related to the delivery or collection of these. Despite the next steps for moving out of lock down continuing, we have to still maintain high levels of hygiene on site as well as limiting the movement of all adults on site. I am sorry that this will disappoint many parents and can only apologise for the disappointment it brings.

Reports will be sent out online. Please contact the school office immediately if you have changed your email address recently.

Summer Holidays

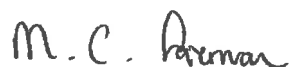
The school will close for summer on Tuesday 21st July and will reopen on Monday 7th September - hopefully to all pupils! Watch out for more information as the government gives us guidance on how we can successfully do this. A letter from the Trust about arrangements for the rest of this term and what may happen in September is attached.

Heatwave Latest

It might not be quite as hot next week, but please continue to send your child to school with either one big water bottle or two smaller ones. I would love to see more children with hats and caps as the sun will remain fierce even if the temperature is under 30 degrees! Don't forget the sunscreen too - I've upped mine every day.

Have a lovely weekend but stay safe and well despite the relaxation of many of the restrictions.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M.C. Foreman". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Mary Foreman
Interim Headteacher