

# Harleston C.E. Primary Academy

School Lane, Harleston, Norfolk. IP20 9HG

Tel: (01379) 852302 / 853211

E-mail: [office@harleston.stbenets.org](mailto:office@harleston.stbenets.org)

Website: [www.harleston.stbenets.org](http://www.harleston.stbenets.org)



**Interim Headteacher: Mrs M Foreman**

Headteacher Update to Parents

28<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It simply seems impossible to believe that a week ago on Monday we experienced temperatures of 30 degrees and have ended the week with temperatures below 10 degrees, pouring rain and high winds. I fear the Autumn Equinox is well and truly upon us.

At my duty gate on the main road over the last few days, I have enjoyed meeting many new (to me) parents and engaged in very interesting conversations - it is always good to have face to face conversations. My new face visor is working well! Grateful thanks to the increased number of parents wearing face coverings as I am sure this is making everyone feel far safer.

You will know from media coverage that children returning to school are coming down with coughs and colds. We have sent home lots of guidance about this and what steps you need to take in this situation. Some children who have COVID-19 type symptoms have been sent for testing but no one has tested positive up to now. We are aware of COVID-19 cases being confirmed in the community so we ask you all to follow the government guidance (and more recently legislation) about self-isolation for yourself and your children.

A few things to catch up on:

- Timings for the start and end of the school day - this is still working very well and the majority of children have arrived before 8.50 a.m. and left before 3.20 p.m. Well done! Our staggered approach to the start and the end of the school day where parents take responsibility for their timings has worked well for nearly everyone. But we have a few parents who are arriving at the entry school gates (A and B) for 9.00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. This means you are arriving late for your child to successfully start and end their day. We expect all parents to have left the school site by 9.00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. This week, the entry gates - A and B will be locked at 8.55 a.m. If you arrive after this time, you will have to ring the school office from Gate A and a member of office staff will come and collect your child from you but you will not be allowed on site. At the end of the school day, the entry gates will be locked at 3.25 p.m. and any uncollected children will be taken to the blue gates. The main road gate will be locked promptly at 3.30 p.m. when Daphne finishes as crossing patroller.
- Last week we had a couple of occasions where parents attempted to enter the school buildings. Please do not be offended if you are prevented from entering any part of the site. Our school risk assessment makes it very clear that parents cannot enter classrooms, cloakrooms and corridors. If you wish to communicate with the school for any reason - teachers or office staff - make sure this is done by email, MyEd or phone call to the school office and not in person. All visits on to the school site are managed by appointment only.
- Wet weather on Friday meant that traffic on School Road was chaotic because of the high number of parents choosing to drive their children to school. The school has no control over how parents choose to get their children to school, but even when it is wet and cold, we would still strongly encourage you to walk.

- Our school field was very wet with standing water on Friday but we will still be using this route for the collection of Reception and Year 2 children for as long as possible. Please make sure that if you are using this route to your child's classroom, you have footwear that keeps your feet dry!
- Google Classroom will be up and running from today (28th September) for all children who are absent from school, whether it is because of self-isolation or any other reason. This does mean that no child should miss out on learning because they are not in school. Please support your child's learning by getting them online from day 1 of their absence. If you are struggling with lack of technology, contact the school office and they will organise paper based learning packs for you.
- Homework will be set via Google Classroom, although children in Reception and Year 1 will still have tasks set for them via Tapestry.
- Reading - across the whole school arrangements are in place for books to be sent home for children to read with members of the family. Books need to be in school every day, and will be exchanged on Fridays when books that have been at home can be quarantined ready to be returned to bookshelves for others to read on the following Monday. Children are encouraged to take their library books home as well.
- School uniform - everyone is still looking very good in a smart uniform. Don't forget that if you are struggling with uniform costs you can contact Alison and Jason Mullen via the school office and they will help sort you out with most things.
- Coats - please make sure your child has a warm and waterproof coat/jacket now that the weather has turned wet and windy. Children will be out and about outside regardless of rainfall, including having Forest School sessions or walking from the lower school to the upper school site for children having hot dinners. For our younger children, please make sure you have practiced with your child turning sleeves out the right way and how to join zip ends together.
- Footwear - children should be wearing school shoes with wellies available for wet weather. A change of footwear (trainers) for outdoor P.E. lessons are essential.
- Dogs and the school site - last week we had several days when we found dog mess on the field. It is such a shame that out of school hours some individuals are using the field as a dog toilet. If you spot (and know) the culprits, please let us know and any details that we receive will be passed to the police.

With my continued gratitude for all your support this term,

Mary Foreman  
Interim Headteacher