



# A letter from Miss Holgate

Friday 28th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we draw to the end of another half term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the past 6 months. Harleston C.E Primary Academy is on a journey to improvement at the moment and by working together we are making a positive difference for our community.

We have weathered two national lockdowns together, ensuring that we provide our children with the support and challenge that they need, both educationally and emotionally. Part of this has been the introduction of 'The Hub' - a place where children can have access to the support that they need. This is an area of the school we will be developing over the next year.

Over the past two terms we have had a focus on Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs and Disability support - you will have read about safeguarding in letters from Mr Carter. I hope that you will have seen the recent news articles about 'The Hub' - which is an innovative provision to support all children in our school.

For the rest of this academic year we will be focussing on behaviours for learning and the choices that our children make. I will be sending out more information about this and an adapted behaviour policy in the next half term. Our policy will be made with staff, children and parents involvement.

This week Mrs Stokes held assemblies with each year group to talk about kindness, she also spoke about being kind to each other when we are out of the classroom.

After half term we will be introducing toilet passes for our children. This will mean that children will wear a lanyard to go to the toilet. If your child has a medical need please inform the office and they will be given their own toilet pass. This will ensure that only one child from a class will be going to the toilet areas at a time. This will allow children to be in class and learning, rather than waiting in a queue at the toilets.

## WOW moments - my four highlights of the week!

- Marshall in Madela has written a fantastic comic book, based on the teachers and staff at HPA - Mr Cranmer (our CEO) thought it was super too. We can't wait for the sequel!
- We have had a week of kindness this week. Mrs Stokes (Part of our FLT), has been able to hold year group assemblies this week - with a focus of kindness. All of the children even learnt a little bit of Spanish.
- 'Wow work' - I have been inundated with fantastic examples of children's work this week. Mrs Barber has been taking lots of pictures to go on my board. Well done to all the children with wow work this half term.



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- Our year 3 parents have been incredibly kind this half term and we have been donated 4 picnic benches and some lovely flowers for the Year 3 playground area. Thank you.

Mr Cranmer sent a letter to all parents/carers to inform you of the Federated Leadership Team and what this means for our community. As you are aware, there is currently no Deputy Head at HPA and we are working together to enable us to have capacity to make the changes I have planned. I know that the past 2½ years have seen lots of change at Harleston C.E. Primary Academy and I know that by working together and with the right team beside me we can ensure that our children get the education that they deserve. With this in mind I have worked with St Benet's Trust to enable us to have the following support:

Mr Hunt (Deputy Head at Diss Infant and Junior) will be with us one day a week for the rest of this year. He is a primary specialist and will be working with the children to instill a love of learning.

Mrs Stokes is working with us to allow us to be able to do things like our year group assemblies and to support in reinforcing positive choices from our children.

Mr Connelly (Headteacher at ASHS) will be working with our Year 5 and 6 children to ensure that they have a smooth transition to High School. He will also be supporting on gate duty.

The children may also speak about Mrs Smith (Deputy Head at ASHS), who is working with children in Year 6 to support their transition to High School.

This is all to add capacity to the school and enable us to keep implementing the changes that are needed within the school. If you have any questions or queries please continue to email the office at [office@harleston.stbenets.org](mailto:office@harleston.stbenets.org)

You may have seen that we have had several vacancies for September start and I am really pleased to announce that I have made some fantastic appointments, which will enable us to have the strong, stable team we need in September.

I am really pleased to announce that we have appointed a fantastic Deputy Head for September: Jane Price. Mrs Price will be joining us from out of Norfolk and she is moving to the area in the holidays. She is a very experienced Deputy Head.

I have also appointed Dan Stagg as our Assistant Headteacher next year. Mr Stagg is a very experienced teacher.

Next year, our Headship team will consist of Miss Holgate, Mrs Price, Mr Stagg, Mrs Botwright (SENDco), Mrs Pringle (School Business Manager) and Mrs Barber (Office Manager). This is a very strong Headship team and I am confident that we will see Harleston CE Primary Academy into its strongest phase yet.



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I am pleased to announce that Mr Carter has secured a Deputy Headship in Hethersett for September, I know that we all wish him really well.

Mrs Churchard will be leaving us at half term, as she is moving out of the area. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all of her hard work.

New Starters this term:

Our two new caretakers are: Mr Adams and Mr Staff - they have got lots of plans to ensure that the school site is cared for.

Our new receptionist is: Mrs Ayling - she will be joining us straight after half term.

Mrs Barber has been promoted to Office Manager and Mrs Duerden has been promoted to Administrative Assistant.

Mr Johnson will be joining our support team as our Inclusion Coordinator. He will be working with children to support SEMH and behavioural needs within the school. We are looking forward to him joining us in mid-June.

Mr Plume has joined our teaching team as a part time teacher. He is an experienced teacher and has been working at Diss Junior School.

There have been some changes in staff recently, we are trying to ensure that the children have as stable a time as possible so we have made the decision to ask Miss Moss to join Mrs Moore in teaching King class until the end of the year.

Miss Webber-Walton is looking into a new career path, as a 1:1 and small group leader. She has requested that she has the opportunity to do this within our school for the rest of the year and to gain experience across the school in different year groups. She will be sad to leave her class but will still be available to support them within the school. Mr Carter and Mr Plume will be teaching in Pankhurst Class for the remainder of the year.

We are aiming to be able to have parents evening next half term in conjunction with school reports. Thank you for your patience, as we had technical difficulties this term.

We will not be holding a traditional sports day this year, instead we will be holding a sports week. We have arranged that children can have access to a wide range of sporting activities from Quiddich to dance. I know that the staff are very excited about this - I can't wait to dust off my quaffle and jump on a broom!

I hope that you all have a restful holiday and enjoy the easing of local restrictions.

Kindest Regards

Hannah Holgate

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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information 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 and tips for adults.

## Online Safety Tips FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

The current generation are the first children to grow up in a world where digital devices are the norm. Recent studies have found that 88% of British 12-year-olds have a smartphone. Four out of ten 6-year-olds own a tablet. And almost two-thirds (64%) of children aged 8-11 use a games console. It's now rare to find a child who doesn't regularly use internet-enabled technology. Each new device means exciting new corners of the digital world to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips to help you guide your children in enjoying new digital devices safely and responsibly.

### 1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD

If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).

### 2. SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't unintentionally do something they shouldn't.

### 3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS

18+

One of the first things children want to do with a new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.

### 4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE

Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.

### 5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'

Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.

### 6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY

Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are fun, too. And the device will still be there when they get back.

### 7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS

Your home WiFi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.

### 8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you set a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused so they can perform well at school.

### 9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES

Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.

### 10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF

It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.

### 11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS

It's common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, young people have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.

### 12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK

Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.

**National Online Safety**  
 #WakeUpWednesday