



Headteacher's Introduction

Welcome back! It has been wonderful to see the children coming back to school this week. I have really enjoyed being on the gate, walking round the school and getting to know the children and their families. I have been very impressed with the children's approach to being back at school – they have thrown themselves straight back into their work with enthusiasm.

It has also been great to see how well everyone has adapted to the new systems in place for keeping everyone safe. Thank you for your patience and also your support with this. The staggered start at the end of the day has been a real success with a really calm start to the day for everyone. We are making tweaks to systems as we see what needs some adjustment.

Happy News

I am delighted to share the news that Mrs Caul is expecting her second child after Christmas. We will arrange cover for her role later in the term and will keep you informed about this as soon as we can. I'm sure you will all join me in sending congratulations to the Caul family at this happy time.

Risk Assessment

We will continue to review all aspects through our risk assessment as we go through the coming weeks. From today, we are introducing a system to the Whitby Avenue entrance with one gate for entry and one for exit to ease the flow at the start and end of the day. Please follow the signs to aid the flow and support social distancing.

We would like to remind all adults coming to school that 2m distancing should be maintained between adults at all times. This will help to keep everyone safe. This includes in communal areas such as the bike sheds.

Visitors in School

As a reminder, we can't routinely have visitors in school at the moment. If you do need to speak to your child's class teacher an appointment can be made. The best way to arrange this is to phone or email the school office. Staff can then call you back or arrange a time to meet outside school hours.

Staffing Changes

We are delighted to welcome Miss Brough who has now officially started with us as a teacher in Year One. We are pleased to have recruited Mrs Gladstone to work as a teaching assistant in Early Years, replacing Mrs Walker who left at the end of last term. We also welcome Mrs Pratt and Mrs Sinclair to the teaching assistant team. During the holiday, Mrs Bernard handed in her notice as a teaching assistant – we wish her well with her new career.

Children's Birthdays

As a reminder from the end of last term, children should no longer bring cakes, sweets or other foods for their class on their birthday. This is in part due to the risk assessment and hygiene requirements around sharing food, but also it is increasingly complicated for children with allergies or religious beliefs meaning they can't take part. Instead, children can come to school in non-uniform on their birthday (or if their birthday falls at the weekend or during a holiday on the next closest day in school to their birthday). This way, they still get to stand out and feel special – with everyone else recognising that it is their birthday and being able to wish them a good day.



Diary Dates

We are currently finalising dates for the Autumn term and will send these out next week. These will include dates for some events which we may not be able to hold in the usual way such as the nativity. We are exploring alternative ways of working these events as we would love to be able to do something if we can. We will keep you informed with our plans, but please be aware that we may not be able to organise anything within the guidelines.

Welcome Meetings

We are unable to host our usual welcome meetings this year so are putting together short presentations of key information for each year group which we will share via the school website as soon as they are ready.

Parents' Evening

We are unlikely to be able to host parents' evenings in the usual way this year. Instead, we are going to offer 10 minute telephone appointments later this half term for the class teacher to talk to you about how your child has started the school year academically and socially. We will use Wisepay for booking a time for the calls – more details to follow of how to do this.

After School Club

The new after school club has started very well, with a relatively small number of children attending this week who have all enjoyed using the refurbished outdoor area. Should you wish to book a place you can email the school office or the club directly on oosc@hempland.pmat.academy. There is still some availability for places which can be booked for either 5pm or 6pm.

Curriculum Overviews

These have all been uploaded to the website and can be seen here:

<https://hemplandprimary.co.uk/curriculum/curriculum-overviews/>

Photographs

We have booked a photography company to come and take the individual children's photos on Monday 12th October. We are talking to them next week about risk assessment and safe practice and will send out more details of how this will work nearer the time so you can be assured that all safety measures are in place.



Symptoms of coronavirus



The symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19) are usually mild, but some people can become very unwell. The main symptoms are:

- high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child or anyone within the same household has these symptoms, they must not come into school and you should arrange for a coronavirus test.

For more information, please visit: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/

What if someone in the school develops Covid-19 symptoms?



We have procedures in place for dealing with both potential and confirmed cases of Covid-19 in our schools. If your child presents with symptoms, you will be asked to collect them immediately. They will remain isolated in school and supervised, as necessary, until they are collected. You will be strongly advised to arrange a coronavirus test for your child. If a member of staff presents with symptoms, they will be sent home immediately and advised to get a test. If anyone you live with has symptoms, all members of the household must stay at home and self-isolate until you receive the test result. **Please inform school what the result of the test is.**

If there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 in one of our schools, we will be advised by the local Health Protection Team on the actions we should take which may involve advising some pupils and staff to self-isolate. Parents and carers will be informed of any confirmed cases in school and kept updated with all actions being taken.