



## Headteacher's Introduction

We have had a great first week back in school and the children have come back happy and keen to learn. It has been wonderful to see the start of new topics across school and the excitement that this has generated. The weather is also beginning to feel a bit warmer and we have been having lots of PE and outdoor learning taking place this week too.

We'd like to thank you for continuing to support our safety measures in school. Despite there being some easing of restrictions, we are continuing with the existing measures for now and will keep you updated when things change.

Mr Haynes & Mrs Innes

## Important Update Reminder - New School Phone Number

We now have a new school phone number. Please update your contact details and make a note of our new number:

**01904 806506**

## Parent Governor Election

Thank you to everyone who voted in the recent election for two parent governors. I can confirm that the following parents have been elected to the governing body:

- Susanna Dale-Simmonds
- Sally Weyman

I would like to thank Gregory Murphy and David Connolly for their interest in the role and for putting themselves forward for nomination.

## Parents' Meetings

We are looking forward to the parent meetings on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April and a new way of running these sessions using School Cloud. Thank you for using this system for booking your appointments with your child's class teacher. If you are having trouble booking your appointment online, please contact the school office either by phone or by email [office@hempland.pmat.academy](mailto:office@hempland.pmat.academy) and the office staff will be able to help.

## Reminder - Parent Pay and School Lunch Bookings

School dinners must be pre-ordered for the following week by Thursday evening, otherwise you will not be able to add them from home and will need to contact the office. If you are in receipt of free school meals, you can still select meals for your child and there will be no charge.

## Reminder - Pupil Premium Information

Please find below a link to a short form we are asking you to complete regarding free school meals/pupil premium. We are asking **all parents** to complete the form regardless of whether you feel you qualify now or not in order to allow us to regularly check your eligibility, should your circumstances change. For each eligible child, the school receives additional funding which can be used to support your child's education.

<https://forms.gle/ZjjjSApQGdNAixYw7>



## Parent Survey Feedback

Once again thank you for the contributions to the survey we sent out before Easter. We have analysed the results and have a summary below of the main positives and areas for further consideration and action.

Most of the feedback was about lockdown which we hope never to repeat. However, some of the principles will apply to our other work and so the feedback is still important.

### Positives

- The offer for remote learning was a definite improvement on the offer in the first lockdown.
- Communication from school has definitely improved.
- Staff offered lots of support when needed.
- Parents liked the videos and modelling of tasks, many found it useful to be able to go back and refer to them as necessary.
- Many felt that the Google Meets added structure to the day and that the Circle Times were a valuable opportunity which allowed the children to engage with their teacher and each other.
- Parents are very appreciative of the commitment and hard work of staff.

### Things to consider

Some parents were not sure how to see feedback on the children’s work or found Google Classroom/Tapestry hard to navigate	We will write simple user guides and train the children where to look. These will be useful as we continue to use Google Classroom for homework.
Concerns about children’s mental health and the effects of lockdown. Lack of social interaction has been a key factor for children.	We have had an increased emphasis on PSHE in class and are addressing issues through this and ELSA support. The return to school has been really positive and children are enjoying settling back into the routine – this has been another key element to help children settle back into a more normal life. We are also starting to plan Y6 leavers activities and have been happy to see the return of extra-curricular clubs
There were some queries over how places were allocated in school during lockdown.	We followed Government guidelines and acted in good faith when parents said they needed a place.
Frequency and content of live sessions – some parents wanted more of the interactive sessions.	If needed again, we would start the live Google Meets and Circle Times straight away to give opportunity for interaction between teacher and children.
The amount of work set for the children. Some parents felt pressure to complete it all and that the structure was too rigid.	We tried to provide a balance, range and options for parents and did send out messages to support parents who were struggling with this. We would ensure this was more targeted if we needed to do this again.

## Cook School

It is great to see Cook School in action again with our Year 1 children baking the most delicious chocolate and beetroot cupcakes! Thank you to Mrs Souch for making it all happen and we look forward to more baking this half term.



## The Big Pedal family photo and video competition

The Big Pedal family competition gives parents and guardians the chance to win one of three amazing prize bundles for their family. All they need to do is take a photo or a short video of their child(ren) taking part in Big Pedal between 19-30 April. Post it to Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, tag @Sustrans and use #BigPedalWin. Families whose children are remote learning can still take part from home. [Find out more information.](https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/uk-wide/schools/sustrans-big-pedal-family-competition/)  
(<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/uk-wide/schools/sustrans-big-pedal-family-competition/>)



## September 2021 School Admissions

**Primary School Allocation Day**  
**16 April 2021**

**Check your child's school place online**

Find out where your child has been allocated a primary school place in York by logging on to our Parent Portal on 16 April. Remember to check you know your password before the day.

[york.gov.uk/PrimarySchoolAdmissions](https://york.gov.uk/PrimarySchoolAdmissions)