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11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **END OF TERM NEWSLETTER**

End of term is upon us and I can honestly say that this term has been one of the most challenging of my career! While the closures throughout COVID threw many new and different challenges our way, the level of absences we have experienced this term while being fully open has stretched our staff to previously unseen levels. It is for that reason that I must extend a thank you to parents who have been thoroughly understanding and supportive of us throughout this time. Our main goal was to keep the school open to all pupils, which has been achieved. But, for that, the credit must go to the staff whose commitment to go above and beyond and be flexible at the last minute has been commendable.

I have a number of items to update you on in preparation for next term:

### **COVID**

We have continued to see the decline in cases across the school this week having only 3 cases reported in the last 7 days. Therefore, on return to school, after half term, we will be able to relax our precautions and reinstate some of the activities we put on hold at the beginning of January. This will see the recommendation for staff to wear face coverings in communal spaces be removed and the return of assemblies held in person. Please look out for invites to our awards assemblies by email as they were sent previously.

### **STAFFING**

This term we have welcomed Mrs. Julia Gronkowsi into our admin team. You are likely to speak to Mrs. Gronkowski if you call the office or pop into reception. She is really enjoying working with us and is looking forward to speaking and meeting all of our school community over time.

We will soon be welcoming Mrs. Alex Jones and Mr. Jack Milburn to our staff team too. Mrs. Jones will be joining us as a teaching assistant, mainly working within Year 1 and Mr. Milburn will be joining us as a higher-level teaching assistant, mainly working within Year 6 but will work across the school too.

Finally, Mrs. Dunn (4FHD) will be leaving us at the end of this week. Over the past 15 years that Mrs. Dunn has worked at HCPS, those parents who have children that have been taught by her are sure to join me in wishing Mrs Dunn the very best for her future and thanking her for her work over the years.

Miss Jackson, who started working with 4FHD in January, will now be taking full time responsibility for the class for the remainder of the year.



## **SWIMMING**

Year 4 have completed their sessions of swimming for this year. Our focus remains on providing targeted sessions to Year 5 and 6 children.

Those children in Year 6 who have been swimming this term will continue, unless they have been informed otherwise. During the first week back (23/02/2022) we will also be taking 5JW in order to complete an up to date assessment. On the third week (09/03/2022) we will take 5HK for an up to date assessment. From this we will communicate with the parents of the children that will continue to go swimming from Year 5 and 6 for the remainder of the year. Only Year 6 children will swim on the second week (02/03/2022) as the Year 5 children are on a trip to Hazard Alley.

Due to our location, we have to travel to a swimming pool in order to provide these lessons. We ask parents to contribute to the cost of the transport. We really do appreciate your contributions, which help to keep our swimming offer as high quality as it is.

For the past few weeks, we have also benefitted from an extra swim teacher who is a parent of children in our school, volunteering his experience and knowledge. This has enabled us to split children into smaller groups to even better target the progress of each child. We extend our huge thanks to Mr Tate for volunteering his time.

## **BEHAVIOUR CONSULTATION**

I am asking for any interested parents to form a consultation group regarding our behaviour policy. Our revised policy has been in place now since September. We would now like to gather your thoughts on a few of the details. Volunteers should be willing to

- read the policy in full,
- attend one or two meetings to discuss the content,
- provide honest feedback in a constructive manner, and
- contribute to the communication to all other parents on our findings.

If you are interested in being a part of this group, please complete [this online](#) form by **1pm on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February** and I will be in contact with you early in the next term. Please bear in mind that we are looking for a relatively small but fair representative group of parents and therefore may need to control the number by earliest registration of interest. Thank you in advance.

## **SNACKS AT BREAKTIME**

We do encourage that children have a snack to eat at mid-morning breaktime. However, may we remind you that this snack should be a **healthy** snack only. Best examples of this would be a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable. Other examples of acceptable snacks include raisins, crackers and dried fruit. Crisps or chocolate are not accepted as part of our healthy snack initiative.



## **WATER BOTTLES**

We regularly encourage children to drink throughout the day and they are advised to have a water bottle in the classroom with them. Many children choose to have this water bottle on their table or under their chair. Bottles should **not** be filled with any other liquids including fruit juices. Thank you.

## **YEAR 6 SATS INFORMATION SESSION**

Staff in Year 6 would like to invite Year 6 parents to an information session which will be held online at **5pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February**. In order to attend the event, please use [this form to sign up](#). We are holding this event online to enable ease of access and also so that the session can be recorded and referred back to at a later date.

## **YEAR 3 HISTORY VISITOR**

On the first day back to school after half term (21st February), Year 3 have an Ancient Egypt experience day in school. Quick reminder that we are inviting the children to come to school dressed as an Ancient Egyptian! No need for extravagant and costly costumes, just a plain white t-shirt, belt and some bottoms would do the job just as well!

## **JEWELLERY UPDATE**

Please be reminded that no jewellery is permitted to be worn in school except a watch and **stud** earrings (no other earrings are permitted). Any watches worn must **NOT** be a smart watch with the ability to connect with phones or the internet.

As is recommended in national guidance, all jewellery must be removed for PE lessons. Children should come to school on their PE days ready for PE. This means with jewellery removed, if they are unable to remove it at school themselves, without assistance.

Children who are unable to remove jewellery, may tape over their stud earrings and participate in most of the PE lesson. Children that require tape should tape at home before coming into school. Staff will not apply tape to children's ears. Tape will be available from the school office if you arrive at school and have forgotten to tape. If able, children may apply themselves. Tape should be sufficient enough to prevent penetration to skin or bone behind the ear, for example. Children unable to remove their stud earrings and need to apply tape will take part in as much of the PE lesson as is safe, according to the teacher's risk assessment.

This approach is in line with national guidance and will ensure that all children take part in as much physical education as possible. However, I must reiterate, **ideally all children will remove all jewellery for every PE lesson.**



## **HALF TERM BREAK**

Over the half term break, we have a bit of work going on at the school. To complement our refreshed library, our hall is now having a freshened look! Our Early Years outdoor area is also being upgraded so that the outdoor shelter can keep our resources from weathering too quickly! We look forward to seeing the updates when we return!

I hope you all enjoy a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing the children back at school on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Kind regards

Mr. S Dainty  
**Headteacher**