

23 October 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

We are now at the end of our final week of the first half term and I am sure you and your children along with the staff are looking forward to the half term break.

School closes on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and reopens on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. It has been a long half term, especially after the period of school closures and the children have been absolutely amazing. They returned to a school with completely new routines and classroom layout, friends who they can see at a distance but not play with, lessons which are delivered in different ways they have done all of this with maturity and positivity. It has been a pleasure to see the children establish different friendships within their classes and take the time to support and look after each other. If, however, you feel your child may not have settled as well as you would have expected and you feel they may need support, please do not hesitate to contact their class teacher by e-mailing the school office.

### **School Book Bags**

Thank you so much to those of you who have supported our efforts to reduce the number of large bags we have in the school cloakrooms. We appreciate that for the many children who cycle into school a back pack is necessary. A number of parents asked if we could look into alternatives to ensure reading books and homework books can be easily carried to and from school. Ms White from the admin team has looked at several styles of book bags and been able to acquire good quality bags that can be purchased directly from school via your ParentPay online accounts for £5 each. We will not be taking any cash payments in order to adhere to the governments Covid-19 guidance.



### **Cycling to School**



It's been great to see so many children and their parents now walk, cycle or scoot to school. Even on cold wet mornings it is good to see those of you that are able to, keeping up with the alternative options rather than coming in the car. Mr. Payne our school caretaker, himself a keen cyclist has noted though that some of the children are coming to school on bikes which are in need of some care to bring them up to a roadworthy, safe condition. Please could you check that your child's bike has both front and back brakes which work, tyres which are properly inflated and the chain and gears oiled. We would also ask that you encourage your child to wear a properly fitted cycle helmet.

### **Termly Learning Conversations (TLC's)**

Under normal circumstances we would now be making preparations for our TLC's which take place in the second half of the autumn term. Due to the current Covid-19 situation as an alternative this term we will be sending home a short written report regarding the children's current attainment as well as commenting on their behavior and attitude to learning.

We will also offer a follow up telephone consultation with the class teacher if parents require it once they have received the report. In addition to this, we will also be sending home a short report at the end of each term once termly assessments have been completed. As always we will keep this system under review as we move through the year.

### **Remote Learning**

If it becomes necessary for a child to self-isolate we continue to provide work for children to access at home through Showbie. Since September this has been provided for individuals as required. After half term each year group will have access to a wider range of activities which closely mirror the learning taking place in the classroom. The school website ([www.heronsgate.org.uk](http://www.heronsgate.org.uk)) will contain specific information regarding remote Learning which will include our Remote Learning Policy and the overview of provision.

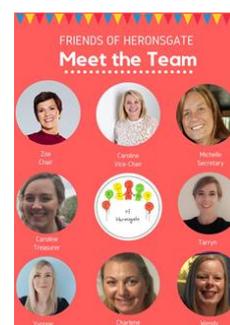
In the event your child does need to isolate and you do not have the technology required to access the full curriculum offered, please contact the school to discuss further support. We will also continue to send out paper copies of work if requested.

In order to gauge the technology children have access to at home we will be sending out a short survey along with this newsletter. Please e-mail your response to [heronsgate@mket.org.uk](mailto:heronsgate@mket.org.uk)

### **Friends of Heronsgate (FoH)**

We would like to thank Zoe and her team of wonderful volunteers who have organised this term's fund raising efforts. They are currently raising money towards a new set of iPads for the school. You will have noticed when collecting your child that there is currently a wonderful collection of carved pumpkins and pumpkin designs all around the school, on the paths and peeking through windows. The children have very much enjoyed showing off their wonderful efforts. FoH and the school would like to thank you for your contribution to the success of this event.

They are now busy organising their Christmas events!



### **Covid-19**

Updated guidance has clarified that there should be good circulation of air in classrooms. At Heronsgate we open windows each morning (we also have high level windows in each room), and we keep internal doors open in order to allow the air to circulate. As the weather begins to get colder we will have the heating on too but we are aware that some children may feel cold when in class. If this is the case for your child please feel free to send them in an extra layer, a sweatshirt jumper etc. Please do not go out and buy additional uniform but if possible in school (ish) colours. We still expect the children to be in their school uniform and this is an extra layer NOT instead of school uniform. Please see below for full guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

## We need You!



At Heronsgate we have been the proud carers of a large aquarium situated in our main entrance to the school. Many children enjoy coming to look at the fish and they are very much a part of our school community.

For many years one of our teachers, Mr. Robinson, took care of the fish and the tank. Mr. Robinson had a wealth of experience and knowledge of all things fish.

Sadly, since his retirement there is no one in school with anywhere near the same depth of knowledge. We are managing the day to day care of the tank but it would be wonderful if there was any parent, grandparent or friend who could possibly volunteer some time to come into school every now and again to help us keep our fish tank spick and span.

Any interested parties please contact the school.

## Finally

We would like to thank you all for your support this half term. We appreciate that the current situation has required the school to make some difficult decisions that impact on you, but without your support and consideration we would not have managed these challenges so effectively.

So once again a very big



Wishing you all a lovely half term break. Stay safe and keep well.

*Jane Edwards*

Headteacher

**Headteacher:** Mrs J. Edwards B.A. (Hons)  
**Deputy Head:** Mrs C. Gardner-Potter B.Ed (Hons)

**Chair of Governors:** Mr K. Gowans  
**Business Manager:** Mrs K. Greenhalgh