

# Heronsgate



## Newsletter

### Summer 1 2021

#### Thank You

I would like to thank all of the parents and carers for your continued support throughout this challenging and often frustrating time in our country. We feel very lucky at Heronsgate that the measures we have put in place have minimised the impact of the pandemic whilst all children have been attending school and have appreciated how patient you have been in assuring our risk assessments and procedures have been effective.

Teachers have been working hard to ensure our curriculum is adjusted and intervention is put in place to enable children to develop the knowledge and skills they may have missed out on whilst school was closed to the majority of children. Teachers have also focused on ensuring children's mental health and well being is improved. Many of our children had a wide range of experiences whilst at home and we appreciate that we need to work with all of our classes to ensure they have the opportunity, through the provision of additional PSHE activities to rebuild friendships and positive relationships and positive attitudes to learning.

#### Before & After School Care

A reminder that Premier Education operate both breakfast and after school clubs on site providing care from 7.30am to 6pm daily without your child having to leave the premises. They are also able to take childcare vouchers now. Full details are on our website, all bookings and payments are made direct with Premier Sport.

[www.http://heronsgate.org.uk/after-school-](http://heronsgate.org.uk/after-school-)

Hay fever It's coming up to that time of year again for many of our pupils. Should your child suffer from hay fever please administer medication at home before school as this is when it is most effective. Most hay fever tablets/syrups last for up to 6 hours and are only a twice a day dose (morning and evening). Therefore please could we ask where possible medicines are selected with 6 hours cover. We will always do our utmost to make the children comfortable.

#### Hot Weather

During the hot weather can we please ask that you send your child to school with a hat and apply sun cream in the morning. It you send in sun cream with your child please make sure it is named.

Can we also please remind you that your child needs a named water bottle in school everyday.

Thank you



#### 2021 TERM DATES & EVENTS

Mon 3rd May—Bank Holiday—School Closed

Thurs 27th May— End of term

Fri 28th May—INSET DAY

**HALF TERM—31st May to 4th June**

Mon 7th June —Term Starts

**Fri 16th July — End of Term**

**Mon 19th July— INSET DAY**

Term dates for 2020/21 and 2021/22 are now available on our school website:

<http://heronsgate.org.uk/term-dates>

Please refer to this when booking holidays as there are other websites giving incorrect information and time off in term time cannot be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances.

We will be updating our summer term activities dates as soon as possible. We have provisional dates in the diary for sports days, year 6 Graduation, moving up days, the FOH end of term discos and FOH the summer fair but are awaiting final guidance from the DFE. With the current situation both in the United Kingdom and locally improving, it is looking ever more hopeful that the second half of the summer term will be a more positive one! Please keep an eye out for updates.

### Pick up time

Unfortunately we have a large number of parents who are lining up at the top gate next to the playground entrance at the end of the day. We have allowed those who have come from Heronshaw, to pick up younger siblings, to line up there at the end of the day. However we have a number of parents who are entering via the carpark gates to stand in the carpark before joining the line who do not have young children with them. I appreciate you all want to collect your children as quickly as possible but as a school we have a responsibility to help parents maintain social distancing when on the premises. With the number of parents now in this line it is impossible. If you are not coming from Heronshaw I would politely request that you line up with the rest of the parents outside the main pedestrian gate on Lichfield Down.

### Vandalism

It has been reported that there have been several serious incidents of vandalism in the play park just outside of Heronsgate school. Several drain covers have been dug up and removed leaving the drains exposed. In addition to this the fencing between the school and the play park is also being systematically pulled apart. We have been in touch with Milton Keynes council and they have been to repair the drains this week but once again the same evening the drain covers have been dug out rendering the area unsafe. As many of our families enjoy spending time at the park after school, please be aware that there are open drains around the football/basketball area. If of course you do see anything regarding these incidents. Please report it.

### Parking Update

You may have noticed that there has been an increase in parking enforcement officers outside of school recently. We are currently working closely with the police, local government officers and Walton Community Council to try to improve the situation. Meanwhile we would like to pass on our gratitude to those parents who park safely and responsibly and to those who walk or cycle to school. It is very pleasing to see the bike racks full of bikes.



### Staff Changes

This term we have had to say goodbye to the school's Business Manager, Mrs Kay Greenhalgh. She and her husband have returned to her native home of New Zealand to start a new business venture. She is sadly missed and we wish her all the very best on their new adventure.

Mrs Denise Burlingham one of our Chartwells hot meals servers will be retiring in May. I am sure those children who have hot meals will join in with wishing her the very best for her retirement.

Mrs Vicki Jewell has been promoted to School Business Manager and Ms Natalie White to Business Support Level 3. Congratulations to both!