

16 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We made it!

This has truly been one of the most memorable and challenging 2 years of my teaching career. I fully appreciate how hard it has been for our children, you as parents and for the teachers and staff at school. Although extremely difficult at times, particularly this term, it has also been full of laughs, sometimes tears and working with such a fabulous team at Heronsgate has made sure we have played our part in keeping everyone safe and well as best as we have been able. We do not underestimate the contributions our families have played too. So a very big thank you to you all. Your continued support over the last year has been invaluable.

We have adapted our normal end of year activities to try to keep things as normal as possible for the children. With the guidance for September changing we are extremely hopeful of a normal return to school in the new term.

Our Year 6 children yesterday celebrated with subject awards and certificates being presented at the Graduation ceremony and 'Friends of Heronsgate' presented each child a special commemorative mug. Today the children will enjoy a day filled with fun activities and again Friends of Heronsgate have supported the school by helping to organise some of the activities including supplying the stocks for splat the teacher.

Last year a new tradition was launched, thanks to Mrs Cox, as the Year 6 children left the school ground for the last time as a Heronsgate pupil, staff lined both sides of the path at the front of the building and clapped each child and their parents in a line of honor. This is a very special moment for the children and staff alike.

Moving now to September when we look forward to welcoming all of the children back in school full time including our new Year 3 children. We've reviewed our risk assessment and protocols in light of new guidance and preparations have already been made for the return of the children on September 6th to start the new term. We will be continuing to maintain many of the protocols put in place to help keep everyone safe. This includes the use of hand gel, extra handwashing and the additional cleaning regime we have in school.

The school risk assessment can be found at: www.heronsgate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/COVID_19_risk_assessment_review-7th-June-2021.pdf

Some of the new ways of organising things we have implemented over the last 5 terms will remain the same and some will return to normal.

You will no doubt be pleased to know that, we plan to allow parents to come on to the playground at the end of the day, to collect children for their classroom without the use of the one-way system. At

the end of the day the additional gates at the top of the playground will once again be open at the end of the day.

We have been delighted with the response by the children to our current practice of children coming into school independently via particular gates in a morning. This has been instrumental in the improvement in how children settle in the mornings. Behaviour coming into school has improved, the children have developed greater independence and they come into school in a calm and orderly manner. This we commend them for. The children settle to work quickly and the adults who welcome the children into school in the morning are able to quickly identify anyone who may need assistance or support. This again has had a good impact as staff can act quickly to support children ensure their day begins on a positive note.

Class Organisation for 2021-2022

Year Group	Class	Class Teacher
3	Nightingales	Mrs Rebecca Oubridge-Lyons (Y3 Manager)
	Wrens	Mr Christopher Wilson
	Sparrows	Mr Alexander Paine
4	Swans	Mrs Claire Cravo (Lower KS2 Phase Leader)
	Kingfishers	Mrs Kim Williams
	Hérons	Miss Michelle Eddy
	Moorhens	Ms Anna Graban
5	Penguins	Mr Josh Bowskill
	Puffins	Mr Owen Jones
	Pelicans	Mrs Clare Fisher Upper (KS2 Phase Leader)
6	Kestrels	Mr Ian Dobson
	Hawks	Mrs Cheryl Dimmock (Year 6 Manager)
	Eagles	Mrs Julie Timmins
	Falcons	Miss Melissa Robinson

In September the most recent guidance has stated that class bubbles will no longer be required. However, if cases in the local area become a concern then Public Health England may require bubbles to be reinstated.

Start and end of the day organisation

In September staggered starts and ends will no longer be required.

Start of the day timings

All children are expected to be in school by **8.40 am**.

Morning entry to school will continue to be through the two gates either side of reception depending upon the year group the children are in.

Gates will be opened at 8.30 am and closed at 8.40 am. Any child arriving after 8.40am and the gates are closed will need to report to reception. Arrival at school later than 8.40am will be marked as late.

Year Group	Start Time	Gate	Entry to School
Year 3	8.40 am	The Heronshaw shared car park pedestrian entrance	Rear of school bike shed entrance (off the playground)
Year 4	8.40 am	Front entrance by the bike racks	Year 6 corridor entrance
Year 5	8.40 am	Main school car park pedestrian gate	Rear of school bike shed entrance (off the playground)
Year 6	8.40 am	Front entrance by the bike racks	Year 6 corridor entrance

All class teachers will be in their classrooms ready to receive children from 8.30 am.

Children will be expected to walk as instructed into school in an orderly manner. They will enter through one of 2 doors and sanitise their hands before making their way to their classrooms. The children will be supported in finding their classroom by staff in the first few days.

End of the day timings

School will end at 3.20 pm for all children.

Parents can enter and leave the playground from which ever gate is convenient. The gates will be open from 3.15 pm.

Children can once again be collected from their classroom doors. Year 4 Herons class are released from the front of the school via the link corridor door. Labels with class names will be placed on each door to assist you. Year 3 classrooms are located toward the Heronshaw end of the playground, followed by Year 5, then Year 4 classrooms and finally Year 6 classrooms which are located at the top of the playground.

For those parents who wish for their child to walk home by themselves, (Years 5 and 6) will need to contact the school to give permission. Once the child leaves the school site the behavior of their child is the parent's responsibility. You may have already contacted the school previously but as there are movement of children and staff in the school it would be very helpful if you can contact the school with your child's name and new class to provide permission to walk home.

Entry to the school for collections at the end of the day.

Any parent or child with a disability who would normally park in the staff car park and has a Heronsgate permit, a member of staff will bring the children to the door leading to the staff car park. The Heronsgate permit must be displayed at all times. If you require a permit please contact the school office to discuss.

Classroom Organisation

Providing guidance does not change over the summer, classrooms can once again be set up as normal. Tables will no longer be required to be in rows with all children facing the same way. Classroom set up will once again be the class teachers decision. Furniture will be returned to classrooms and children will be able to store their trays in units.

Classroom Hygiene

Each classroom has been provided with hand sanitiser, tissues, pedal bin for used tissues, virucidal cleaner for hard surfaces and disposable cloths for applying it. Additional cleaning will take place each day for high touch area such as door handles, toilets and taps. At the end of each day thorough cleaning of classrooms will be carried out. This includes cleaning of all hard surfaces including chairs and tables, door handles, glass and light switches. Excess furniture in classrooms and shared areas has been removed to ensure cleaning can take place effectively. This regime will continue in the new term.

Uniform

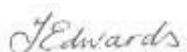
In order to support our families, we made the decision to relax uniform expectations towards the end of this academic year. In September, we will be expecting the children to be back into normal school uniform once again. We have attached a copy of the school uniform information with this letter. The only adaptation to our current uniform is that plain black leggings can be worn for PE as an alternative to joggers or shorts. Leggings are NOT to be worn at any other time. PE uniform including the PE zoodie can only be worn on PE days. As classrooms still need to be well ventilated they may be colder in the winter months so an extra layer in the school colour can be worn. Fleece are available from our uniform provider.

Personal possessions in school

Toys, pencil cases, collector cards or fiddle toys should not be bought into school. All items of stationary will be provided by the school. Mobile phones should only be brought to school if absolutely necessary and by those children who have permission to walk to and from school on their own. Phones will be collected for safe keeping by staff at the beginning of the day and returned at the end of the day.

Finally, the staff and I have continued to be overwhelmed by the support we have experienced from our families this year and can only say that this is a reflection of what a special place Heronsgate is. I would like to wish you all the very best for the summer holidays and look forward to seeing you all safe and well in September!

Kindest regards



Mrs 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 V Jewell

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