

Hartlebury CE Primary School

January 2022

Our Value, this month, is 'Kindness'

"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

HAPPY NEW YEAR from all of us!



Welcome back everyone! It is always lovely to see, and hear, all the children back in school again! The place just isn't the same without them! We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their good wishes, gifts and cards at the end of last term, and wish you all a very happy, healthy, COVID-19 free 2022.

Santa Dash

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who supported the Santa Dash on Friday 10th December. All of the children took part in this annual event, with everyone looking extra festive in their Christmas jumpers, elf ears and Santa hats. We stomped like snowmen, trotted like reindeers, skipped like elves and had a fabulous time all whilst raising money for our wonderful PTA. Thank you to everyone who took part and sponsored our fantastic children, you are all brilliant! We raised well over an incredible **£1000** through this spectacular sporting event...and had great fun doing so! I will keep you informed about how we spend the money, some has already gone on much needed playtime equipment!



Lots of information for this term in this newsletter from School and the Government; please persevere!

School News- Lots of change and whilst this can be un-nerving for some; it's always exciting!

As you will be aware Mrs Grand left us as Head of School last term BUT we have GOOD NEWS...she hasn't gone too far and will be returning to run our School Led Tutoring project, funded by the Department for Education, from next Monday 10th January. This is a specific 15-week government funded program and Mrs Grand will be working with some children, for short targeted sessions, 2 days per week during the Spring term. So, when the children say, 'I've seen Mrs Grand today,' they have!

Mrs Bartlett has taken over the role of Head of School temporarily until a new Head of School is appointed. This position has been advertised and I will keep you informed how the process is going. I will remain as Executive Head, with the ultimate responsibility for school performance, continuing to split my time between Hartlebury and Wilden, BUT I am always available by telephone or email, head@hartlebury.worcs.sch.uk if you have any questions, queries or comments.



Miss Jemma Davies is taking over responsibility for teaching Year 1, under the careful guidance of Mrs Bartlett. Mrs Joanne Olsen, a qualified teacher, will cover Miss Davies non-contact time. Mrs Lucy Tristram, who is very well known to you and your children and an exceptionally experienced teaching assistant, is moving full time to Year 1.

Miss Ellie Day will take over Mrs Tristram's role in Early Years, becoming the lead teaching assistant for Nursery. Mrs Claire Gibson is joining our Early Years team and we look forward to working with her. Mrs Denise Wilton will support in Early Years every afternoon, whilst continuing her role in Forest School.

'We grow in the Christian values of Love, Tolerance and Forgiveness; learning together, showing kindness to each other.'

School News- Forest School and Outdoor Play- why we value learning outside, in all weathers.



Forest School is a child-centered inspirational learning process, that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long-term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting. We believe that every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of their learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances. These, often the most memorable learning experiences, help us to make sense of the world around us by making links between feelings and learning. They stay with us into adulthood and affect our behaviour, lifestyle and work choices. They influence our values and the decisions we make. They allow us to transfer learning experienced outside to the classroom and vice versa. By helping young people apply their knowledge across a range of challenges, learning outside the classroom builds bridges between theory and reality, schools and communities, young people and their futures. Quality learning experiences in ‘real’ situations have the capacity to raise achievement across a range of subjects and to develop better personal and social skills. When these experiences are well planned, safely managed and personalised to meet the needs of every child they can improve academic achievement, provide a bridge to higher order learning, develop skills and independence, make learning more engaging and relevant to young people, develop active citizens and stewards of the environment, nurture creativity, as well as support mental health and well-being. We believe these skills are vital to your children’s development and, in addition to all the off-site learning opportunities we offer, we have invested in training staff and ensuring our fantastic outdoor learning facilities are maintained and used to offer weekly learning sessions in our environment.

Learning outside is a year long, weekly experience and your children do need appropriate clothing to take part.

They should come to school dressed for Forest School on their day. Please ensure they have waterproof trousers and tops, wellies or other suitable waterproof boots (not trainers) to go over their forest school clothes. These clothes should be: -

- Warm trousers or joggers (no leggings on their own, dresses or skirts)
- Warm layers -T Shirts, base layers, fleeces
- Warm socks
- Hat and gloves



They will also need a complete change of clothing, in a plastic bag, for when they come back from Forest School as they will get muddy and wet (we will return your plastic bag with their muddy clothes!). From our Children’s Voice Survey, most children LOVE Forest School but it is now part of our curriculum and most children will take part (sadly we can’t fit in weekly sessions for Years 5 and 6 just yet!). If you are struggling to provide waterproof clothing please speak to your class teacher; we may be able to help.

Eco Council News- Water Warriors

In December, we were very lucky to have a visitor from Severn Trent Water. He came in to talk to us all about how we could be eco-friendlier when it comes to using water. All the children in school have made a pledge to try and save more water, both in school and at home, by making lots of small and easy changes that will make a big difference to our planet. Please see some of these ideas below that the whole family could take part in!



- Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth
- Taking shorter showers
- Only fill the bath half way
- Collect rain water to water your garden

Good luck water warriors!

COVID-19-Keeping your Children Safe

Play Time and Ventilation



Your child **MUST** have a suitable, warm, weather proof coat in school every day- our school coats are ideal. We will have outdoor play whenever possible, even in the rain...fresh air and re-refreshing the air in classrooms is our main attack against the spread of COVID-19. You may have seen on the news that the Government has provided air quality monitors for school and all classes now have these monitors in place.

‘We grow in the Christian values of Love, Tolerance and Forgiveness; learning together, showing kindness to each other.’

As you can imagine with 30 people in a room these monitors regularly say improve ventilation and sometimes **OUTSIDE NOW!** Each room does require lots of ventilation and taking the class outside, even for a short time, is the quickest way.

Guidance for Parents

I long for the Newsletter when we don't have a COVID-19 update section, but for the time being this is again a main section of my newsletter. Here is a continuation of our advice: -

- If your child is in any way unwell please keep them at home
- Regular Lateral Flow Tests are recommended in all households. Please order a sufficient supply in advance.
- Reduce the amount of face to face contact with all staff in school; where appropriate please call or email office@hartlebury.worcs.sch.uk
- Only come to the front office if essential, then a mask **MUST** be worn. Please call or email all enquiries
- Ensure your child has a coat and a labeled water bottle in school **EVERY** day.

Government Guidance- Returning to School after COVID-19 self-isolation

Individuals may now take LFD tests on **day 6 and day 7** of their self-isolation period.

Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with

LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting.

Please inform us via email if you are taking this option and confirm that the 2 LFD tests are negative.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.



Government Guidance- Close Contact with a Case of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an **LFD test every day for seven days** and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#)

Attendance- Safeguarding your child's well-being

Having said all of the above attending school is vitally important. The Government states that school attendance is 'mandatory' and a priority for them. The Government states that we must not be complacent regarding regular school attendance. Unfortunately, at the end of the autumn term we had **70 children with attendance below 90%**, classing all of these children as **PERSISTENT ABSENTEES. That is nearly 40% of our children!** The Government target is 96% attendance, so you will appreciate that we are missing this target by a huge amount. Some of these 70 children have had 10 days isolation for COVID-19 and we are not reporting these cases to the Educational Welfare Officer, but several others have been reported and parents have been notified.

All children, who have irregular attendance, have to be reported now, by a government directive, to the Education Welfare Officer (EWO). If we cannot justify poor attendance then the EWO will move to proceedings against the parents.

To help us help you please ensure: -

1. You notify us, before 9.00am, if your child is going to be absent from school. We have an answer phone line for you to leave these messages.
2. Please attend meetings with Mrs Bartlett to discuss your child's attendance if requested
3. Please get medical evidence for non-attendance if requested.



If we have not heard about absentees by 10.00am we will call you, if we are unable to get any information regarding your child's absence we will call your next emergency contact we have on record. If we are unable to contact anyone this absence will be recorded as unauthorized and a cause for concern; it may be reported to the EWO and SAET Attendance Officer.

'We grow in the Christian values of Love, Tolerance and Forgiveness; learning together, showing kindness to each other.'

I realise some parents are anxious about COVID-19 and its transmission but in some instances, this is affecting your child's development, their friendships, their well-being and mental health. It will also impact on their future outcomes. COVID is here to stay for the immediate future; we have to learn to live with it, so please talk to us and work with us. Help us to support you rather than involving other outside agencies.

Staying Open



The Government recognises that the high rates of COVID-19 may cause difficulties with the availability of staff. Our shared priority is to keep education settings open and children and young people continuing face-to-face education. We will stay open until directed not to by the Government. My issue is if staff absence becomes too great to ensure the appropriate cover of classes for their safety I may have no choice but to close classes at very short notice. **Please bear this in mind and have a Plan B or C tucked up your sleeve.** Any closures will be a very last resort and will

hopefully be for a short period of time, if at all. I will notify parents of any closure of classes, as soon as possible, by text, but please be patient with us if this happens. If we are unable to be fully open for any reason the classes at home will move directly to remote learning from Day 1.

Breakfast Club and After School Care Reminder

These two facilities remain very popular. But during this current wave of COVID-19 and the impact on staffing levels places **MUST BE BOOKED AND PAID FOR** in advance. **IF YOU HAVE NOT BOOKED WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE YOUR CHILD INTO THIS PROVISION.** Please telephone the office if you need emergency after school care; we understand this does happen from time to time and will always try to help. We will need 24 hours notice if bookings are to be cancelled; otherwise the full payment will be taken.



Healthy Snacking; Healthy Drinking - Safeguarding your Children's Health



We encourage health and well being and teach the children the benefits of a healthy life style as part of our curriculum. Therefore, could you please consider the snacks you give your children. Fruit, vegetables, malt loaf, rice cakes, low calorie & low sugar yogurts and fromage frais are all recommended, so please review the high sugar, high salty snacks we regularly see...think of their teeth, their weight and their health! Drinks in school should be water. No child 'hates'

water, they learn to prefer squash, fizzy drinks because that is what we give them. Please take the opportunity to blame it 'on school' and encourage the much-preferred water in the water bottles **Please remember children in Early Years, Reception, Years 1 & 2 all receive free school fruit so don't need snacks from home at all.**

Safer Internet Day - 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'. Parents Information session On Line Tuesday 8th February

Safer Internet Day 2022 is on Tuesday 8th of February and will be celebrated with the theme 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'. From gaming and chat, to streaming and video, young people are shaping the interactive entertainment spaces they are a part of. Safer Internet Day 2022 celebrates young people's role in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content, or interacting with their friends and peers.



Using tailored learning materials, tips and resources for all ages as well as for educators and families, Safer Internet Day challenges everyone to play their part in fostering supportive relationships and respectful communities online. From discussing the ways, the internet can be used to communicate, to creating positive change in online groups when bullying behaviours arise, the Day empowers young people to be at the heart of creating a better internet.

Speaking with young people is key to exploring their experiences on platforms where they can play games, interact with their peers and others, and take part in 'live' experiences such as video streaming. These platforms play such an important and positive role, providing young people with the means to interact with friends and as a great pastime, particularly during lockdowns.



'We grow in the Christian values of Love, Tolerance and Forgiveness; learning together, showing kindness to each other.'

However, there are some emerging safety issues in these spaces as well as issues young people have been navigating for some time; particularly the lack of respect individuals display towards each other, groups ‘ganging up’ against other groups, and the sense that it is easy to ‘get away’ with negative behaviour such as meanness, bullying and swearing. They speak about hate directed at particular groups, particularly LGBT+ users, and misogyny on gaming platforms. They tell us the apparent lack of consequences for negative behaviour has an impact on their safety and wellbeing.

We need to address these issues so that all young people understand what constitutes respectful behaviour online, and know what to do if they encounter hate or bullying directed at them or someone else.

We will be hosting a Parents Virtual Information session to help you navigate some of the issues your children may come up against; we hope you will join us.

Lunches reminder...

All meals are booked and paid for, in advance, via ParentPay. A code will be generated on enrolment to our school. Please see some important information below relating to school lunches: **All meals must be booked by 11.59pm, the Wednesday before the week commences. After this time, you will be unable to book hot meals.**

Applying for Free School Meals... It's never too late!

Have your circumstances changed during these challenging times? We are here to help.

Are you eligible for free school meals?

During lockdown monetary vouchers, of £15.00 per week per child, are being given to all families in receipt of Free School Meals, whose children are not accessing school-based care.

Free School Meals, in addition to the Universal Free School Meals that children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 receive, can be awarded if you or your partner are claiming either;

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC
- Working Tax Credit run-on-paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax

» Important

» Important

» Important

If so, you may be eligible for free school meals whilst still being in receipt of Universal Free School Meals. I realise that sounds bizarre... but you can still apply. Miss Gledhill will be able to help and advise with the application. Please contact her by emailing office@hartlebury.worcs.sch.uk, she will help!

Dates to Note

February 8th	National Safer Internet Day	March 30th & 31st	Parents Meetings
	Parents Information Session	April 8th	Easter Holidays begin
15th	PTA Quiz Night	25th	Back to school
21st	Half term		
28th	Back to School		

‘We grow in the Christian values of Love, Tolerance and Forgiveness; learning together, showing kindness to each other.’