

March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's hard to believe we are half way through this half term! Despite it only being a short half term, we are including a lot – Art days, World Book Day, Poetry Week, Big Question reflection/showcase, Year 4 Ukulele concert - on top of our normal high quality curriculum!

Staffing

I am sure some of you have already noticed, in July Mrs Dean will be having a baby. We are currently in the process of recruiting a teacher to cover Mrs. Dean's maternity leave. Also, Mrs Walsh (School Business Manager) will be leaving us on the 24th March for a promotion. I would like to thank Mrs. Walsh for all her hard work and wish her the best of luck as she takes on her new challenge. You will be missed by staff, governors, children and parents!



Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 11th February we reminded ourselves of the key safer internet messages. The children explored how they should stay safe online, in particular how children should manage their online identity. The internet is a fantastic resource and arguably it would be very difficult to live without but we **all** have a responsibility to keep our children safe when they are online. Children are often one step ahead of us so it is important that parents make sure they know what their children are doing when they are online, checking if it is age appropriate, the content is accurate and reliable, know whether the site or game has a 'chatroom' facility and know what information your child is giving out online. Parents should remember that social media platforms should not be used by children under 13 and 'WhatsApp' should not be used by children under 16. School is spending more and more time dealing with social media issues – this is time away from teaching and learning. Please can parents support school in ensuring appropriate use of technology. More information and key messages can be found at:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>



Timestables

Children need to be able to recall all timestables up to 12 x 12 and related division facts **by the end of Year 4**. Timestable knowledge is a vital part of the 'Heathfield Head' - so many aspects of Maths is reliant on timestable knowledge. If children do not have this knowledge, it becomes a barrier and restricts the amount of progress children will make.

School uses Timestable Rockstars to support with timetable recall, including daily tests in school and weekly competitions between classes and groups within school. Each week, certificates are given out to children who have made the greatest improvement and/or put the most effort into improving their recall. From June this year, all Year 4 children will be expected to complete a Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) to test if they are able to recall the multiplication facts to the required Year 4 standard. (A more detailed letter will be sent to the Year 4 parents explaining how the MTC works) At Heathfield, we do not wait until the end of Year 4 to check where children are but rather use the information gathered by Timestable Rockstars and track which children are on track. If a child is starting to fall behind, we provide additional support to get them back on track – **Keep up, not catch up!** Please encourage your children to use Timestable Rockstars at home or practice chanting timestables together - just 5 minutes a day will make the biggest difference.

Expectations:

End of Year 2 – Recall and use multiplication and division facts for 2,5,10 multiplication tables

End of Year 3 – Recall and use multiplication and division facts for 3,4,8 multiplication tables

End of year 4 - Recall and use multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12 x 12

Interim (mid-year) reports

Just before parents evening, parents will receive a short report about their child's progress to date and next steps in learning. This will then be used as part of the discussion between teacher and parent at parents evening.

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Coronavirus

The threat of coronavirus is being documented all over the media and there are many different messages about what is the best thing to do. Each day I receive updates from the government about what schools should be doing. At the time of writing, personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle the virus, especially washing hands more; and the catch it, bin it, kill it strategy for those with coughs and sneezes also help in delaying the peak of the infection. Children are being told to sing 'Happy Birthday' twice to give them an idea of how long they should be washing their hands for. This of course should happen all of the time and not just because of the Coronavirus! No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England. See final page for more details.



Attendance and appointments

On World Book Day we had 4 children off in the entire school! The best attendance we have had during my time at Heathfield! We need to replicate this everyday – everyday might not be as exciting as Book Day but we have carefully sequenced children's learning so that each day links to the next and so missing a day interrupts this and makes it more difficult for children to keep up. Let's see if we can beat this record!



Some hospital appointments are unavoidable and cannot be changed, however, we are having more and more lost learning times during the school day due to routine appointments. Not only does this impact on your child's attendance, it again interrupts the learning sequence. Please try to avoid taking your child out of school for an appointment.

Relationships education

Some of you may be aware that the government released new statutory guidance for relationship education that must be in place by September 2020. Schools are currently revising their policy and will be asking parents for their opinions. Keep your eye out for further information.

World of Work Week

During the week beginning 6th July, we are hosting a 'World of Work' week. The purpose of the week is to expose children **to as many different careers** as possible to inspire and support children in making the connection between skills learnt in school and skills for life. This is summarised in our Heathfield motto, 'Learning together, Learning for life'. We already have an accountant, plasterer, police, DJ, actor, dancer and lawyer signed up! If you are able to or know anyone who would be willing to give up any time during this week to work with a group of children or present to a class about their career, please pop into the school office or send an email to office@heathfield.bolton.sch.uk and we can arrange a time. Thank you in advance for any support you can provide!

KS2 Playground – before school

A polite reminder that children should not be left on their own on the playground before school. I have had a few complaints from other parents regarding children's conduct. Parents will be contacted and asked to remain with their child should this continue. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter!

Future Dates:

Tuesday 10 th March	Reading at Heathfield Parent Meeting
Wednesday 11 th March	Book Bus
Tuesday 17 th March	Year 2 SATs meeting at 3.15pm
Wednesday 18 th March	Easter Bingo. Eyes down 6.00pm
Thursday 19 th March	Year 6 SATs meeting at 3.15pm
Monday 23 rd March	Poetry Week
Tuesday 24 th March	Parents afternoon/Evening – Book your appointment via the e-schools app from 9 th March
Wednesday 25 th March	Easter Bonnet Competition 9:00am Parents invited
Thursday 26 th March	Parents Evening – Book your appointment via the e-schools app from 9 th March
Friday 27 th March	Poetry performances AM Nursery – Year2 9:00am PM Nursery and Years 3 – 6 1:35pm
Friday 27 th March	School closes 2:00pm
Saturday 28 th March	Heathfield Choir opening the Salvation Army Easter Fair

Once again, thank you to all parents/carers for their continued support.

Yours sincerely,
Mr M D Thornley Headteacher

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This is your daily email to keep you updated on the government's response to COVID-19 (coronavirus).

The importance of hygiene

Personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle COVID-19, especially washing hands more; and the catch it, bin it, kill it strategy for those with coughs and sneezes.

Wash your hands more often for 20 seconds with soap and hot water.

In addition to handwashing before eating and after sneezing, both children and staff should also wash hands after using toilets and after travelling on public transport.

Please help us in sharing simple and effective hand hygiene messages:

<https://twitter.com/NHSuk/status/1235112744917049346>

Public Health England has a dedicated webpage with a range of posters and digital materials at:

<https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101-coronavirus-/resources>

Sign up is quick, free and means you will be alerted as more resources are made available.

Educational resources

The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene.

Resources are currently available for KS1, KS2 and KS3 and can be used in various settings including schools:

<https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools>

Updated travel advice for travellers returning from Italy

The advice remains the same for travellers returning from the lockdown areas of Italy, that you should self-isolate even if you are not showing symptoms. The advice for other parts of Italy has been expanded to cover the whole country: if you have returned from anywhere else in Italy outside of the lockdown areas, you should self-isolate if you develop symptoms and call NHS 111.

The latest travel guidance can be found here:

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas-with-implications-for-returning-travellers-or-visitors-arriving-in-the-uk>

Further information on what you should do if you are asked to self-isolate can be found here:

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/02/20/what-is-self-isolation-and-why-is-it-important/>

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is now available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Where to find the latest information

Updates on COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Guidance for educational settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Latest Department for Education information:

- <https://twitter.com/educationgovuk>
- <https://www.facebook.com/educationgovuk>
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