

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Friday September 4th 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and it was so nice to be able to greet lots of you at the front entrance even though I was in disguise with my mask! I would also like to say a huge thank you for messages and gifts at the end of the summer term.

Thank you all very much for adhering to the staggered arrival times and for following the queuing system.

I must apologise to those few families who were held up by the internal door safety lock failing. This issue has been addressed as an urgent matter.

The children all seem happy and positive and I am sure that they will tell you about how things have altered in the classes. Each child has their own desk and their own set of equipment. The teachers are very aware that the children might find it unusual not sitting next to another child in Key Stage 2 and not sitting in groups in Key Stage 1, so they have explained in simple and positive ways the reasons why. The children are still able to talk together in lessons so there is some cooperative class discussion, in fact during the first morning I have heard quite a lot of chatter and laughter from all classrooms! These first few days have been a settling in period that will continue next week when we hope to be lessening any anxiety and re-establishing school behavioural expectations and routines.

The teachers and classroom staff are busy assessing where your child is with their learning and the new timetable will allow for revision of work and some catch up work. This inevitably means that we might not be able to provide all the subjects in the same depth as we usually do for the time being, although we will try to provide as broad a curriculum experience as possible.

PE will begin on Friday 11th September so remember to send your child to school in their PE kit and KS1 will need to bring their Forest Schools kit in a bag to change into.

We will soon be welcoming our new Reception children and their families as they begin a phased introduction to school starting September 7th. We also welcome a new family to the village and school with a child in Year 6, Year 3 and Year 1. Sadly we say goodbye to the Daniels family as they have moved a much further distance away from Hillesley and the Bayston family who are moving from the village. Also leaving us is the Temenes family - we wish them all well in their new homes and schools.

You might also meet our new member of staff Mrs Stephens, who will be working in Key Stage 1, assisting with additional needs. Miss Suggitt also returns and will be working in Key Stage 1 in the afternoons. She has successfully completed her TA apprenticeship and we are so pleased that she is remaining with us on a part time basis.

As you are already aware, the children will remain in their bubbles as much as possible but they will be able to see, at a suitable distance, the children in the other bubble, particularly at play times.

Key Stage 2 will be taught by Mrs Cooper, Mr Whitbread and myself assisted by Miss Scudamore. Key Stage 1 will be taught by Mrs King and Mrs England assisted by Miss Sargeson, Mrs Stephens and Miss Suggitt.

The office will be run by Mrs Hardwick on Mondays and Mrs Iddon every other day but please be aware that the office will be unmanned on Tuesday afternoons, so if you call you might need to leave a message or alternatively e mail us.

I will try to be available to greet families in the mornings when possible but if you need to tell us any important information that might need more than a brief chat, please e mail or call us.

I again take this opportunity to remind you about taking any suspicion of illness very seriously and to seek a test for your child, yourself and your household if anyone feels unwell with indicative symptoms. If you have difficulty securing a test, either drive-through or postal, please inform the school and we can help you.

You will not receive the usual curriculum information letter this first term as we try to establish exactly what the children need to catch up with, but be assured that we will be helping children move forward and progress whatever their starting point this year.

I will keep you informed of any changes and update information on a regular basis by letter emailed to you. We will not be able to send home plastic wallets. You will also periodically receive class emails from the teachers so please look at those too.

Regards,

J. Pedley