



# October Newsletter 2020

## **A warm welcome as the days get colder**

As the days get colder and darker and we head towards autumn, I hope you and your child have settled into the new school year, even if it is a little bit different from normal.

I just wanted to take the chance to thank everyone for the way we have managed to return to school after the lockdown. The children have been amazing and impressed everyone with the way they have taken on the new routines at the start and the end of the day, hand sanitising and having their own equipment. They have also made a great start to their lessons and showing their new teachers everything they have remembered from before lockdown. You should all be very proud of how well they are coping.

## **Now some important information about upcoming events:**

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer our usual events like open morning, harvest festival and the Halloween disco in school this term due to the current guidelines and restrictions. We are also still waiting for a date when we can invite the children who were in Year 6 last year to come back for the leavers' assembly and prom.

We are planning for Parents'/Carers' evening to go ahead via telephone conversations or Zoom and more information will follow when details have been finalised.

## **School Birthday Parties**

Due to the government's Rule of Six, children and families are finding it very difficult to hold birthday parties. We believe that children have lost far too much already due to the pandemic and we want to try to give them something every child should have. For this reason, on the last Friday of every month, we will be holding a birthday party in school for all of the children who were born in this month.

There will be no need to bring in a change of clothes or to provide any food as school will be providing a birthday cake for each class and organising party games.

The first party will take place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and will celebrate children born in August, September and October.

## **Social Distancing**

Please could I remind parents/carers to keep their social distance when waiting outside the school gates and entering the school playground. If you are queuing for your child's staggered start time, please queue along the length of the school fence rather than blocking the pavements or crowding around the school gate.

## **Smoke-Free zone**

Could I also remind everyone that the areas around school and in the playground are smoke-free zones. Therefore, we ask parent/carer to avoid smoking/vaping when dropping and collecting their children from school.

## **Future events for the diary**

### **School Places**

I know they have only just started Year 6 but if you have a child in this year group, the deadline for applications to your preferred Secondary School is 31<sup>st</sup> October. You can apply by clicking this link <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/before-you-apply>

We also have places in our school Nursery (either 15 or 30 hours depending on your eligibility) and Reception. If you have children in these year groups, and would like a place, please contact the office.



## Parent Governor Vacancy

The Governing Body has a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Governors play a key role in helping the school improve and give children the best start in life. If you are interested in becoming a Governor, and would like to know more about the role, please let me know either by email, telephone or on the gate at the start and end of each day.

**School closes for half term on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct and will re-open on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov**

## Twitter

For more information, and to see photos of how the children are settling back into school life, follow us on Twitter **@HCPSLeeds** or the Twitter feed at **[hunsletcarr.co.uk](https://www.hunsletcarr.co.uk)**

## Questions and Information

If you have any questions or need further information about items on this newsletter, please ask your class teacher or me, and we will be happy to help.

Mr Martin Lumb

## Governors' News

Because of the unusual circumstances over the last several months, it is a lot longer than usual since I wrote to you. Since then, COVID-19 has changed all our lives. I hope you haven't been badly affected by the consequences of the virus.

Although governors cannot come into school as much as we usually do, we are still monitoring things regularly, and holding meetings using Zoom. At our first board meeting last week, it was particularly pleasing to hear from Mr Lumb that the children have adjusted well to being in school, that they have almost all been very happy to be back, and that they are keen to catch up with their learning. Also, it has been delightful, but not at all surprising, to be told that all the teachers, and other staff, have been thrilled to welcome your children back.

Most importantly, governors are playing a part in making sure that the school operates as safely as possible, to minimise the risk of infection spreading within the school. Thank you to you for doing your bit to minimise the risk that your child becomes infected. Keeping children in school safely so they can keep on learning is so important so we are all extremely keen to keep school fully open, even though the colder weather will make that harder.

Best wishes from me and all the governors – Jon Hairsine, Chair of Governors

## Collapsing a bubble

At the time of writing this newsletter, we have been very lucky in school, that we have not had a positive case from any of the children, staff or parents/carers. With the infection rate in Leeds as it is, it is likely that at some point we will have a positive case.

When this happens, we will send a letter to all of the parents/carers of children in the same bubble as the positive case explaining what we are going to do next. Public Health England will advise us to do one of three things:

1. Keep the bubble up and running as normal as the person with the confirmed positive case has not been in school during the period where they were infectious
2. Keep the bubble up and running but advise all of the people who had been a **close contact** of the confirmed case to isolate for 14 days, regardless of whether they have symptoms or not
3. Collapse the bubble and advise all of the children and staff in that bubble to isolate for 14 days regardless of whether they have symptoms or not