



Aspiring to achieve our best: moving forward together!

t 01884 252445 | e admin@heathcoat.devon.sch.uk

Available online at www.heathcoat.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

We continue to hope that you and your families are well and coping with the current situation as best you can. It is certainly fair to say that little could have prepared us for what has happened over the last month or two and we are very conscious of the wide- ranging challenges that the current lock down creates for us all.

Prime Minister's announcement

Many families will have heard the Prime Minister's address on Sunday 11th May in which he stated that:

"At the earliest by June 1 – after half term – we believe we may be in a position to begin the phased reopening of shops and to get primary pupils back into schools, in stages, beginning with reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Our ambition is that secondary pupils facing exams next year will get at least some time with their teachers before the holidays."

We also heard this news for the first time on Sunday and, over the course of the next week or two, we will be reviewing the detailed guidance that the government has said it will provide. We will then take any action required to open the school to the year groups identified in a safe way.

It's a very unsettling time for us all but rest assured that we're going to be doing everything we can to make sure we're ready to receive these year groups if it's safe for our school to reopen in the coming weeks.

However, we're also not going to be pressuring anyone to send their children to school, since you know your children and personal situation best. We'll keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision.

Currently, we will continue to offer places for vulnerable children and those of key workers, but we understand that many other parents will want to know more about when their children will return to school. We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we're not in a position to extend places to other children at the moment until we receive further government guidance.

When we are in a position to do so, we will provide information on our website and in a letter so that you will know exactly when the school will be able to once again offer a place for those children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. **In the meantime, it would be appreciated if parents could avoid contacting the school directly.**

School provision



School continues to remain open for a small number of vulnerable children and the children of key workers who can't be cared for safely at home.

Staff are working on a rota so that we have the minimal number each day to reduce the risk to all members of the community. Those teachers working in school will be unable to respond to emails as quickly as they are teaching children.



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Home learning

We'd like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home. We'll need to keep going with this for a while yet, so please check the website every Monday for new home learning.

The teachers will continue to email you each week and we look forward to receiving photos of the learning and activities you are taking part in at home. We will share these on our Facebook page so you can all celebrate the lovely work. Due to safeguarding reasons, please don't send photos of your child partially clothed to their teacher or add them to Facebook.

Remember to try and read every day, write every day and make something every day.

VE Day bake off



Thank you to everyone who has sent in photos so far. We have lots of budding cooks in the making! Keep them coming and we will celebrate them all in one post on Facebook.

The children in school celebrated VE day on Friday with a picnic lunch, music and bunting.

Support for families

I am sure you will all be aware through the media, about the increased concerns regarding the additional risks that being at home creates for children and adults who are victims of domestic abuse. You may well have seen the broadcasts on television aimed at those who are victims of domestic abuse. Please be aware that if you are currently suffering in this way, support and help for you is available. The current lockdown rules do not apply in the same way and there are options available to you. We have been asked to open the school up as a place of safety for victims to be able to make a phone call for help. If you need to do this, please come to school and ask for Miss Higginson, Mrs Hambly, Mrs Shanahan or Miss Neale. Let them know that you **'need a place of safety to make a phone call'** and they will take you to Miss Higginson's office where you can contact the appropriate help.

Year 6 SATS

This week you would have been sitting your SATs tests. We know you have all worked hard and some of you were looking forward to the challenge. However, the things you have learnt this year, and over your time at HPS, are not just for 4 days of tests in year 6. They're to help you gain knowledge and understanding, prepare you for high school and most importantly to develop and learn skills as you grow into teenagers and become an adult.

Make sure to take some time this week to think about how much you've progressed this year and over the last couple of years.



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Standing Long Jump competition

To celebrate what would have been the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the start of the athletics season, we have an exciting challenge for all the children.

We would like you all to practice a standing long jump and then measure your furthest jump. Email a photo of you jumping to your class teacher and the distance you jumped, along with the name of the House that you are in at school. Send in your results by **Friday 22nd May**. We will announce the winners after half term!

Here is a photo of Miss Hughes preparing to jump, then an action photo. She managed 1m 20.



Please remember to look after one another and stay safe.