



Halwill Primary School
Newsletter No.1
Autumn Term. 14th September 2020
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Aim High; Be Resilient; Take Care of Each Other

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to say that the first week of the 'new normal' went very well and the children quickly settled back in. There have been lots of smiles, laughter and excited chatter as the children reacquainted themselves with each other, for some haven't seen each other since March. I am very proud of our new Reception children who have settled in brilliantly and are clearly loving being in school. A very warm welcome to our new families.

Of course, some children will be carrying anxiety and lockdown might make the transition back to school more challenging. Mental health is very important to us so all the staff will be there to support any child who needs it.

Parents and children might be anxious about work missed. We are spending a few weeks, looking at children's learning and assessing where the children have gaps. Then we will put into place a catch-up programme of support.

COVID-19 Symptoms and Procedures

Thank you parents who have been extremely vigilant of symptoms. To remind you, if your child has a cold, sore throat or stomach ache, **they do not need a test** and do not need to isolate. **If you are not sending your child in to school because they are unwell but do not have COVID symptoms, please make this clear in your message.**

However, if they answer yes to one to one of the following, please follow the advice below:

1. Have you got a new continuous cough?
2. Have you got a high temperature?
3. Have you got a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste (anosmia)?
4. Have you tested positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the last 10 days?
5. Has any member of your household had symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the last 14 days?

If your child is not coming in to school, you must let us know via email or by telephoning the school in the morning and **please state that they have symptoms**. If your child is presenting with symptoms, please arrange for them to have a Coronavirus test. Parents must inform us immediately of the results of a test and follow this guidance:

1. If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.

2. If someone tests positive, they should follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and must continue to self-isolate for at least **10 days** from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days. Parents must provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace.

Testing

I am aware that it is currently very difficult to get a test. If you are struggling, please email d-ccg.devon.urgenttesting@nhs.net and state you have a school aged child, if you are still unable to get a test, let us know and we will try to help.

Homework

Teachers will begin setting homework this week. We will be doing this via the Class Dojo learning platform as this will keep us all familiar with using it as it will be needed if we have a local or national lockdown. We are putting together a plan for virtual learning so that we can also support children who are isolating. Further details will follow.

Expectations of when and what will be set will be shared with you by class teachers. New children will be given log-in details.

School Lunches

Please order all lunches via the SchoolMoney app. Please don't forget to check out, even if your child's meal is free. Ordering this way is a good opportunity to talk to your child about what they will be having. Please try to order by the Friday of the previous week.

Permissions

A permissions letter will be sent home today. It will include questions on the use of sanitiser and photos for social media. These are particularly important as we need to be very clear on whether you give your consent for these. Please return by Monday 21st September.

Clubs

These will commence next week of 21st September. Details will follow this week. Apologies for the delay, it has been harder this term to organise as there is much more to consider.

Assemblies

Unfortunately we are unable to have parents in for Celebration Assembly, however, they will continue in school. I will Zoom the first part of the assembly into the classrooms, as we did in June and July but I will then go to the classrooms and give out certificates. Children will have the opportunity to talk to their class about their work. Sadly, there will be no hand-shaking but certainly there will be hand-washing!

For practical and safeguarding reasons, the Zoom will be just for those in school.

Survey

Thank you parents who completed the survey prior to the summer holidays. The overwhelming response was positive with one or two points to feedback on and we will certainly take these on board. I will share the results in next week's newsletter.

Dates for your diary:

October

14th *Flu vaccinations years R to 6.*

26th to 30th *Half term*

November

2nd *Non pupil day*

3rd *Non pupil day*

December

18th *End of term*

January

4th *Start of Spring term*



Moved house?

New phone number?



New email address?

If you have any of the above, don't forget to let us know so that we can keep our records up to date.

Thank you



If there have been any changes to your child's medical history/conditions, please ensure you have updated the office.

Thank you