



**TERM 1 2021-22**

**New school Year Newsletter**  
**HARCOURT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we are now quickly approaching the start of the new school year I thought it would be useful to provide you with some additional information regarding how school will look in the coming months.

As you will now know the vast majority of restrictions placed upon the country during the pandemic have now been lifted. Throughout the summer holidays the Department for Education have been updating their guidance for schools which means we are now working towards a more 'normal' approach to school whilst following a number of protocols to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

By now you will all be very aware of the importance of your child staying at home if they have:

1. a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
2. a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
3. a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

As a school we will continue to follow four main control measures to keep all members of our community safe. These are:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

**School Attendance and Term Time Holiday**

Please can I remind all parents that attendance in school is once again statutory. All children are expected to attend school unless they are not well enough to do so. Please contact the school office if you require any advice or to report your child absent. Where possible medical appointments should be made out of school hours. Authorisation for absence from school is at the discretion of the Headteacher and will only be provided in exceptional circumstances. **From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September school once again starts at 8.50am and all pupils must arrive by this time.**

Please note that when a pupil's attendance level is deemed to be a concern and does not improve rapidly the school will work closely with Kent Attendance Team and if necessary take legal action against parents to ensure regular attendance.

As you will be aware holiday in term time will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances. Any requests for term time holiday must be made in advance of the holiday by writing to the Headteacher. As a rule of thumb, truly exceptional term time holiday will not be authorised for more than five school days.

### **Key Changes in Guidance**

**Face Masks** - Although face masks are no longer compulsory on the school site we would urge all visitors to continue to wear them for the safety of members of our community. We will continue to review this and reserve the right to ask any member of the community to wear a mask if deemed necessary.

**Use of Bubbles** - From the 1<sup>st</sup> September schools are no longer required to keep children in controlled groups or 'bubbles'. This means that we will be able to allow our children to mix more freely during free time such as at break times and lunch time. We will also be able to once again have more whole school activities such as Key Stage and Whole School Assemblies. However, in order to limit the numbers of people in an enclosed space, we will not be welcoming parents back to our Friday achievement assemblies until the beginning of Term 2 at the earliest.

**Close Contact and Bubble Closures** – From the start of the new term children are no longer required to isolate if they come into close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case. Adults that have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccination also do not need to isolate. **Government guidance is now to take a PCR test as quickly as possible.** Please note schools can refuse admittance to school of any pupil they believe have COVID-19 symptoms until a negative PCR test can be evidenced.

**Stepping Measures Up or Down** – In line with advice from Public Health England if a significant number of pupils from the school or wider community are identified as having COVID-19 it may be necessary to revert back to some of the previous measures used in school such as classes being sent home to help break the chain of transmission.



### **Returning to School in September**

#### **School Times**

From the start of term, we will no longer be having a staggered start and end to the school day.

**Children Must be in School by 8.50am**

**Morning Drop Off** – On the children's return to school on the 6<sup>th</sup> September school will once again start at 8.50am with the school gates opening at 8.40am.

- Children in Key Stage One (EYFS to Yr2) will be dropped off at the KS1 Gate and walk in on their own.
- New Reception pupils can be walked up to the outdoor areas of their classroom until the end of the week. After this they will walk in independently with support from the Reception Class Team,
- Children in Key Stage Two (Yr3 to Yr6) will enter the school via the KS2 playground gate.

As the teaching staff will be supporting the children in the classroom first thing in the morning, teachers will not be available on the gate in the morning. Any important messages can be passed to either Amy our Family Support Worker or a member of the Senior Leadership Team on the gates. If a longer discussion is required then parents are welcome to make an appointment to meet with their child's class teacher. Appointments should be made via the office.

**Afternoon Collection** – All children will end their day at 3.15pm. At the end of the day parents will be invited on to the playground to collect their children.

- Children in EYFS and Yr1 will be collected from the outdoor areas of their classrooms.
- Children in Year 2 will be collected from the main KS1 door.
- Children in Key Stage Two will be dismissed to parents on the KS2 playground.

### **Breakfast Club**

I am pleased to confirm that Breakfast Club will be available from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September for pupils in Yr1 to Yr 6 from 7.45am. The cost of each session is £2.00. Reception pupils can access Breakfast Club from Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

### **School Lunches**

By the end of this week we will have completed the replacement work on our hall roof. This means we will once again be able to provide hot meals for all pupils that require these. The menu for this term will be sent out to you all by the end of the week.

### **School Bags, Pencil Cases, Water Bottles and Other Equipment**

Pupils are once again free to bring a school bag with them into school next week. They may also bring into school with them a pencil case if they wish, however all equipment they need will be provided by the school.

All pupils are required to bring into school a refillable water bottle. As a school we work hard to promote healthy lifestyles so please ensure that bottles only contain water.

### **P.E Kits**

All pupils will need a PE kit as follows:

- A pair of black plimsolls/black trainers
- A pair of black shorts
- A pair of dark blue/black
- A plain white t-shirt

**Reception to Year 2** – will come to school wearing their PE kit on the appropriate day.  
**Year 3 to Year 6** – need to have a PE kit in school with them at all times. The children in KS2 will change into and out of their PE kits on their PE days.

### **Homework**

In response to parental requests we will be returning to homework books for this academic year (subject to additional COVID restrictions being put into place). Further information to follow.

### **Parental Involvement**

It is our intention to start reintroducing opportunities for parents to visit the school site in the coming term. We will be taking a slow and sensible approach to this consistent with guidance. Please take a look at the preliminary dates provided for more information.

#### **Provisional Events and Dates Autumn 1 2021**

Date	Event
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	First Day of Term – Yr 1 to Yr 6 EYFS Teddy Bear Picnic (PM)
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	First Day of Term – EYFS
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Kent Test in Hall (All Day)
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 Assessments Meet the Teacher Sessions
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	First Swimming Session (Yr 4)
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Acorn Class Parent Workshop
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Sir Linkalot Visit to School (All Day)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Last Day of Term 1 Harvest Festival Assemblies

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the school when the school office reopens on Wednesday.

Anthony