



Herne Bay Infant School and Seashells Nursery

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July 2020

Returning families – September 2020-July 2021

Dear Families,

I am pleased to let you know that your child's school report for this academic year has been sent out to you in the post. The report has been written by your child's class teacher using their knowledge and understanding of your child at the point of school closure on the 20th March. I enjoyed reading about your child and their achievements and I hope that you will enjoy reading the teachers comments about your child and their learning too.

Before I start explaining my thoughts for the next academic year I wanted to say thank you for all your support, understanding, patience and adaptability during the challenging times that we have faced since the nation went into lockdown in March. Your support for all the staff and the kindness that has been shown by many in providing staff in school with treats has been greatly appreciated.

Our thoughts are now moving towards planning for September. The publication of the government guidance late last week about the full opening of schools for all children in September has allowed us to start to make some firmer plans.

The pod system of working that was introduced at the start of June has been running very efficiently. The children who have returned to school have been happy, confident and pleased to be back. They do not seem to have been too adversely affected by the disruption of the last few months in terms of their wellbeing. Staff have really enjoyed welcoming the children back into school and we are all looking forward to September when it will be all our children returning. It is important for you to know that the pod system is working well as the latest government publication advises that we will need to continue to work this way in September.

For those children who have not been in school since the national lockdown, this will mean learning slightly different routines on return to school in September. We will continue to have staggered start and finish times using the different entrances and exits around the school site. This enables us to support you and your child to adhere as much as possible to social distancing by reducing the number of adults and children around the school site at any one time. Recreational times during the school day including playtimes and lunchtimes will also be staggered with children remaining in their pods.

From September 2020, due to the number of pupils we will have on roll, we will be reducing the number of classes in school in both the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. This change to the classes means that none of the original classes from this academic year will be moving into their new class group as a whole. Class teachers and senior leaders have carefully considered the placing of children, taking into account the children they have worked well with and their individual need.

Year R will have 3 classes – *Starfish, Seahorse and Dolphin.*

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) will have 7 classes. The 7 classes will be made up of:

3 **Year 1** classes, *Monkey, Tiger and Parrot*

3 **Year 2** classes *Ladybird, Bee and Dragonfly*

A new **mixed class of Year 1 and Year 2** children called *Kingfisher Class.*

In September, the teaching teams will be as follows:

Year R	Teacher
Starfish Class	Bonnie Amos (3 days) Amy Vernon (2 days)
Seahorse Class	Andy Bourton
Dolphin Class	Becky Ingram-Baldwin
Key stage 1 – Year 1	
Monkey Class	Sam Adby
Tiger Class	Liza Fitzsimmons
Parrot Class	Sophia Collett
Key stage 1 – Year 2	
Ladybird Class	Linzi Bradbury (3 days) Ellie Warner (2 days)
Bee Class	Jennifer Scanlon
Dragonfly Class	Daniel Gingell
Key stage 1 – Year 1 / Year 2	
Kingfisher Class	Jane Stanley
PPA cover teachers	Jacqueline Reed (3 days) Beverley Liffen-Latter (2 days)

In preparation for September I am very mindful that for many of our children it will be 5 months since they were last in school and that they may require additional support in settling back into the routines and expectations of school. To support this, the first three days of the academic year – 2nd, 3rd and 4th September will focus specifically on transition and the children’s well-being. We will take a staggered and measured approach to the full reopening of school for all pupils. This worked well for the wider opening of school in June with parents and children returning very happily and children settling quickly. It is my intention that for these three days, the children will be in school for *half a day either a morning session or an afternoon session*. This will allow the children to get to know the new expectations, rules and routines in smaller groups following the changes that we have had to make and to support the children getting to know the class adults and vice versa. It will also enable teachers to make informal assessments of children’s starting points for learning as learning through lockdown will have been very different for each child. These three days will be very important in supporting the confidence and wellbeing of all the children, but particularly those who have had a long absence from school. I hope that you can understand and appreciate the necessity of taking a slower much considered return to school. All Key stage 1 children will be full time from Monday 7th September.

You will be receiving an email following this letter which will detail your child’s new class and their class adults, the times they will be attending from 2nd-4th September, as well as their entry and collection points and times.

In September, it is also my intention to resume breakfast club. From September breakfast club will start at 7.45am. To support the integrity of the pods, the children will sit with children within their own class / year group pod, socially distanced from the other class / year group pods. If you would like a space at breakfast club in September, please call and speak to a member of the school office team.

Once we return in September, we will inform you of any after school clubs that will be available. It is unlikely that this will be the number and variety that we would normally offer as these will need to be carefully considered in the light of the new government guidance.

As with all the school planning that I am doing at present, I need to remind you that the plans we have for September are subject to government guidance and change, dependent on the Local and National situation of the COVID crisis. However, please be assured that I will notify you as soon as possible if plans must be amended or changed.

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Jo Zacharia, Jenna Ryan, Jess Young, Elaine Price and Chris Kelly. I am sure you will join in thanking them for all their hard work and dedication to the Herne Bay Infant School community during the time they have been with us and we wish them all the very best for the future.

We are also celebrating with Lyn Neighbour, who has been working at Herne Bay Infant School for **25 years**. Her loyalty and dedication to the school has been outstanding and many within the Herne Bay wider community have benefitted from Lyn's support in school.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call the school office. Additional information will continue to be added to the school website, so please remember to check in from time to time.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Day". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the word "Day".

Mrs Helen Day
Acting Headteacher