



Hamp Nursery & Infants' School
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Headteacher: Mrs. S. Bird and Mrs. M. Weatherburn

8 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following recent media speculation, several concerned parents have approached us to ask whether we are going to have a 2-week lockdown over half term. We would like to reassure you that up to now we have not received any guidance to direct us that this will be the case. As soon as we receive any news we will let you know straightaway. We do not know whether schools would be expected to remain open for children of essential or key workers at this time but if this is the case we will write to you as we did in March.

However, as cases of Covid-19 are on the rise both locally and nationally and the pandemic continues to be very serious, there is a possibility that even if it doesn't happen in October it could happen at some other time. There is also the likelihood that children may be absent from school as a household member is symptomatic and the whole family is self-isolating, or that we may have to close a class bubble if children or staff from that bubble have a positive test. As yet, we have not had to close any bubbles in school, and although some families have self-isolated whilst waiting for test results we have been fortunate with good attendance since September.

The government has directed schools to prepare for 'blended learning'. This could take on many different forms and each school has been instructed to put into place measures that best meet the needs of their own children. This will mean that children, whilst absent from school for any reason, can continue to learn with the least disruption to their education.

On our school website, which we know many of you used over the first lockdown period, you will find at the bottom of the home page that there is a folder for each class. In this folder there is a link to the class's current planning. This shows you an overview of what your child/ren are learning each week in their classes. For Nurseries and EYFS classes there is one overview and for KS1 classes a topic overview, and Literacy and Numeracy medium term plans. Over the next week or so we will also add a sample timetable for each class so you can see how much time children spend on each area.

Class teachers will also ensure that children are able to bring home paper copies of phonics cards and a list of the actions for each phoneme, number lines or hundred squares as appropriate, common words and the handwriting style we currently teach so that these resources can be kept at home to support you working alongside your child to continue learning and practising what is being taught in school. If we do have to close a bubble we will also send home an exercise book and a pencil.

Some of our planning may refer to specific resources eg *write sentences to describe Goldilocks*; you will find search engines such as Google (with adult supervision) are a great help, but you could adapt a character in your child's favourite story book if this is easier for you. Sometimes certain websites may be mentioned but again these should be looked at with parental supervision. We would not expect within our planning children to be working online without adult supervision.

Many of the activities are practical and can easily be adapted with household items eg in a maths lesson 'counters' could be clothes pegs or buttons, toy cars or apples from the fruit bowl. In science, finding different materials or drawing the parts of a plant can be supported by whatever you have at home.

A very important part of the curriculum at the moment is the weekly PSHE lesson, alongside which each teacher is planning regular short activities to support the children's mental health and wellbeing. Regular

breaks in learning and fun bursts of activity are planned to help children settle back into school as part of our 'recovery curriculum'.

We have also begun the process of updating our systems with 'Google Classroom'. This is taking some time and we will hopefully be ready to give you more information about this just before or just after half term. This will enable us to support the children with some "remote learning" in the event of a partial or full lockdown. To help us know who will be able to access this resource can you please complete and return the survey below. **Please note that there is no expectation for parents to buy any new devices or buy any internet access if you do not already have these.**

Unfortunately, we have been advised that we will not be able to go ahead with face to face appointments on Parents' Day as we had hoped, so **school will be open as normal on Thursday 22nd October**. This will be our last day before half term as Friday 23rd October is an INSET day.

When we return from half term on Monday 2nd November we will begin to contact you all by phone for your parent/teacher consultations. This may take a while so don't worry if you don't hear from us in the first few days. We will keep going until we have spoken to you all.

Finally, we would just like to thank you for your continued support as we follow the social distancing and restrictions required because of the pandemic. In school, aside from classes remaining apart from each other, the school day seems quite similar to before. Every classroom has a very happy and busy atmosphere where the children are working hard and making progress. As we know, children are remarkably resilient and we hope to reassure you that the 'new normal' is working very well.

Yours sincerely

Susan Bird
Headteacher

Mary Weatherburn
Headteacher

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Google Classrooms – reply slip
(please complete and return to school by Friday 16th October)

Child's name: **Class**

Parent/carer's name:

Parent/carer's email address:

1. Do you have internet access at home? Yes No

2. Which of the following does your child have access to?

A Windows PC or laptop A Mac PC or laptop An iPad An Android tablet

An Amazon Fire A smartphone Any other internet enabled device (please specify)

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None of the above

3. Are these resources shared with others in the house Yes No

If yes, how many others share these devices?