



Hardingstone Academy Newsletter 4

Friday 2nd October 2020

Good afternoon, the weeks are flying by and I can't believe it's Friday again. We have completed our first month back! Thanks again to our brilliant hardworking staff, children and supportive parents. We are so proud of all the children and their positive attitudes to learning. Their 'bubbles' have become their 'new normal' for now and all children are happy and follow our school expectations. With the ever changing weather, please can your child bring a coat each day, even if it is dry and warm in the morning. We will almost always try to send children out to play rather than keep them indoors because this reduces the risk of infections spreading. Our classrooms will always have the windows open to improve ventilation and reduce the risk of infections spreading. So it is really important that your child has a school jumper or cardigan to wear. Please make sure it is named so that we can return any found items to the correct child. Thank you for your support in this. Sit back and read the newsletter and find out about our week and important information that you need.



Thank you



I just wanted to add a personal thank you to everyone that has made my first month at Hardingstone Academy so lovely. I can't wait to work with more children over the coming weeks and to get to know more families. As you know at Hardingstone, we have an open door policy and want you to come in and share with us achievements as well as ask any questions you have. We would love to invite you into school but at the moment we are unable to, as soon as guidance changes we will invite you in again. Thank you for your continued understanding.

Safety Snippet

WhatsApp has become one of the most used messaging apps. The minimum age of use for WhatsApp is *16 years old*. It had previously dropped to *13 years old* but in April 2018 returned to *16*, as a response to data-protection legislation. Like many age restrictions on social media apps, some children may choose to ignore this and sign up for WhatsApp when they're younger. Please see the

attached link to a 'How to guide' on keeping children safe on WhatsApp. You can also check your own security settings

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/whatsapp-safety-a-how-to-guide-for-parents/>



Covid Safety Update

Sadly, coronavirus cases are on the rise in many parts of the UK and, although many of us may be finding the restrictions challenging, we must remain vigilant and continue to play our part in restricting its spread. It is tough but with our combined effort, hopefully the current situation will improve soon but we must all continue to play our part in ensuring we are all putting safety first. With this in mind, we have included some very important reminders.

- If you or your child feel unwell with COVID-19 symptoms, do not come to school but inform the office, take a test and wait for the results
- Do not gather in groups in the playground and maintain the 1m+ distance when talking with others, do not allow your children to play on the playground equipment at the end of the day
- Come at your allocated start and finish times
- Leave the premises as soon as you have picked up your child

As always, thank you for your understanding and support with keeping everyone safe.



Photos



Just to let you know that our photo day will be **Tuesday 24th November 2020** this has changed.

Parental Engagement



We will be sending out a questionnaire by email next week to all parents and we really appreciate as many responses as possible. This will look at ways we can increase parental engagement during this difficult time and also see if you would be willing to offer support with learning when we are able to have visitors in school again.

Proud Cloud



In every class you will find a 'proud cloud', this is to celebrate the children's successes across the day. Please ask your child to tell you when they are on the proud cloud and celebrate their achievements with them.

Year 6

Next week, I will be sending out a letter to all year 6 children to explain our plans for the beginning part of the year, while we can't offer the 'typical' activities and responsibilities that they will have been looking forward to we do have lots of ideas. Please be reassured we are all thinking about this year group and will be planning in different opportunities for them as well as providing support and challenge as they move towards Secondary School. Please take some time to look at Secondary School websites to find out their virtual open day events. Applications are now open and the closing date is 5pm on 31 October 2020.



Parking

Please be mindful of all pedestrians when moving your car - we have been informed of two incidents this week where accidents could have occurred but luckily didn't! If you are using the local roads to park during drop off and collection times, please remember to park considerately. It is important, for the safety of our pupils and residents that you park in a safe manner. Thank you for your cooperation.



Have a child yourself or the child of a family friend or neighbour wanting to join Hardingstone Academy in September 2021?



Do you have a child who is the right age to start in Reception next September? Do you have a family friend or neighbour whose child is ready to start Reception next year? At present due to Coronavirus, schools are not able to offer parent tours of the site. This is the same for secondary schools who have a Year 7 intake next September. We have already had a few phone calls from prospective parents who would like to see the school. In order to give new parents the best chance in the present circumstances to get an idea about Hardingstone Academy and a feel for our school, we are creating virtual tours with lots of key information. They will be on our website very soon!

Virtual Parent Events

Normally we would be sharing an exciting dates list for the term ahead including residential details, harvest festival, class assemblies (which will now be Trail of Knowledge Events) nativity and more. We can confirm that we are currently putting plans in place for virtual events and details will be in next weeks newsletter. We will have to wait to see what the guidance will allow in the near future. Dates so far: **w/b 12th October - Meet the Teacher Presentations w/b 19th October - Harvest Festival 22nd-23rd October - Year 6 team building event 24th - 1st November - Half term 2nd**

November - Training Day 24th November - Photo Day These will all be virtual events and put on the website, more dates to follow. We are currently organising virtual parents evening sessions as we know how important these are - dates will follow after half term.



Lost Property



We are currently unable to let children come and look through lost property in school. Please make sure that all your child's clothing, water bottles and lunch boxes are named. This will enable us to return your child's property to them. We thank you for your continued support as we navigate these difficult times.

Reminders



Reading Books We are currently returning reading books only on a Friday. Please can you make sure that your child's book is in their book bag daily with their reading record so that adults in school can read with your child. **PE Kits** Please make sure your child has the school PE kit and is appropriately dressed for the weather. We will be taking the children outside for PE as much as possible. Children with long hair must tie this up for their own safety and earrings must be removed.

Bike to School Week



Well done to everyone that has taken part in 'bike to school' this week. Maple and Sycamore had the most children taking part in this event a special well done to them!

Attendance

Firstly, we just want to say a big thank you to parents and carers for continuing to support your child's attendance at this time. Please be aware though that it is extremely important, especially in the current climate, that you inform us of the reason for why your child isn't in school at any point. Please remember that you must make contact with us on both your child's first day of absence and also on any subsequent days of absence. It cannot be assumed, for safeguarding reasons, that we know why your child is off school. Finally, in line with the above, if we contact you to chase a reason

for absence, please ensure that you reply to our phone calls so that we know you have received them. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with the above.

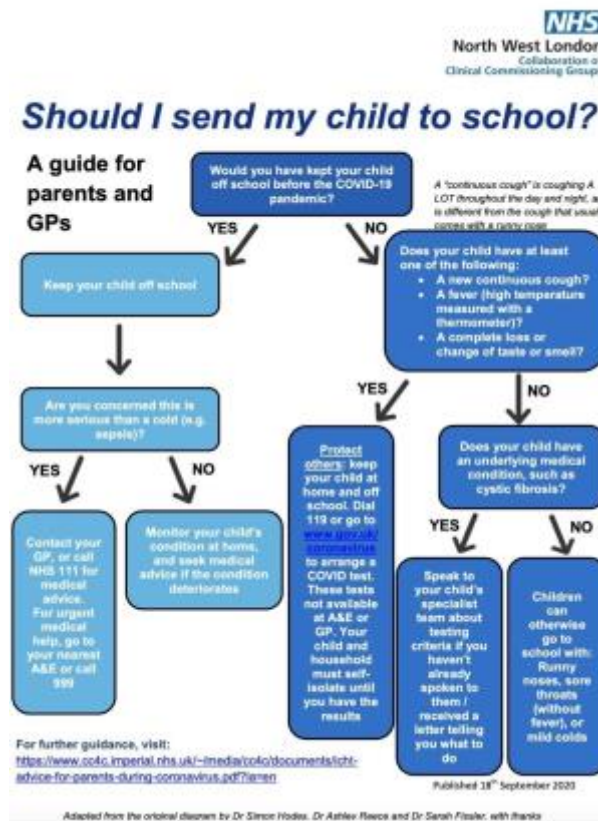


Recycling Week Challenge

Jessica from Miss Coleman's reception class made a bird feeder from a milk bottle to hang in her tree. Well done and thank you for sending us a picture to share.



Illnesses



Whilst we encourage good attendance at school so that our children access a full education, we would ask you to be mindful in this current time and consider carefully if your child is well enough to attend school. Please reinforce NHS information - 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'

We have had an increased number of phone calls this week asking us to make decisions about illnesses. We hope this will help you to make informed decisions:

- If your child has had an upset stomach, sickness or diarrhoea they must be kept off school for 48 hours.
- If your child has a sore throat, runny nose or ear-ache, you must judge whether their health is affected and whether they are well enough to attend school or not.

- If your child has a high temperature, a new persistent cough and/or loses their sense of taste or smell, you must keep them off school and arrange a Covid-19 test. Only after a negative test result can your child return to school. Bear in mind that children who have received a negative test result may return to school still displaying a cough.

Celebrations of the Week

Well done to all the 'Stars of the Week' we are so proud of your achievements. Keep up the great start and I can't wait to see all your work when I visit your bubble.

















Super Learners Across Our School

This week children have been really busy with their learning. Have a look at the lovely classroom environments and some work from around the school.



















Let's hope the weather improves next week. Have a lovely weekend. Julie Stevens Head of School