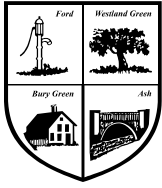


Little Hadham Primary School



'Believing and Achieving'

Stortford Road,
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HERTS. SG11 2DX

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e-mail: admin@littlehadham.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher : Ms S Connolly

Dear Parents/Carers

Despite the restrictions, I trust that you have had a good summer and have been able to enjoy the good weather. As the temperature drops, we are reminded that the autumn will soon be upon us and with that, the start of the new academic year, oh what fun!

We are really looking forward to welcoming your child back to school and are working hard to prepare the building and grounds. It is not unusual for children (and believe it or not, staff!) to be a little anxious about returning to school after the summer holidays but of course, this year, those anxieties may well be far greater than previously as so many of our community have not been physically in school full time since the week of the 20th of March, almost six months ago. Therefore, we are having a controlled and staggered start to the new term. This will enable us to orientate and induct pupils, acquaint them with our safety measures and the new routines and reconnect with them. We must remember in September we shall have double the pupils attending than we had in July and getting everyone through the gates and into their classes needs your support and punctuality. I want to reassure you that we will do all we can to support our students' social and emotional needs as well as their learning.

It is a long letter, but I think it is better to give parents and carers the answers to the questions you will be thinking about and probably a few you haven't as well.

Visitors and parents

- In order to reduce the risk of transmission, parents and carers cannot enter the school site without prior appointment other than in emergency situations. If parents/carers need to submit any documentation, please email it rather than submit paper copies. Parents are encouraged to walk to school where possible and no parents of Keys Stage 1 and 2 will be permitted on the school grounds. If children cycle or scoot to school, then they are to use the storage area to put their bike/scooter securely near the Early Years class entrance.
- Only one parent of Reception and Nursery children are to enter as normal, however, please wear a mask and make sure social distancing is maintained. Parents must arrive on time for entry to school, they must not arrive early or late. In the instance that parents have children in more than one year group, children will start with the sibling who is in at the earliest time, and finish with the sibling who finishes at earliest time meaning parents will be able to drop off and leave, rather than remain on school grounds.

Hygiene, Illness & Quarantine

- Hand sanitizing & hand washing in school.
- We have hand sanitising stations at every entrance door to the school. There is a hand sanitising station in every classroom.

- All toilets have hand wash facilities with hot water and soap. All classrooms also have sinks with hot water and soap. Regular handwashing will be timetabled into the school day for pupils.

If your child is unwell during the school day

- Any child, who staff feel may be ill, will be promptly brought to the isolation area which will be in Elm Class (previously known as the music room).
- Parents or guardians will be contacted & asked to collect their child immediately.
- It is vital that you cooperate fully with school staff so that we can protect all children.
- Again, please ensure we have your correct phone number & numbers for your emergency contacts.
- If necessary, the PHE may provide further guidance to the school. The school's decision in any such cases is final.
- If a child needs to be brought to the isolation area, their table and tray will be cleaned immediately and full sanitation will take place as soon as is practicably possible, as per the DfE directive.
- This isolation area will be fully sanitised when the child has been collected.

Quarantine

- If your child is currently out of the country and has not returned from abroad prior to the 18th of August, you must email the school at admin@littlehadham.herts.sch.uk and be prepared to self-isolate for 14 days in line with government policy.
- You'll find the most recent government guidelines here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk/coronavirus-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate-when-you-travel-to-the-uk>

How you help us to support your child

Class times for the first term are:

Ash and Saplings (Nursery and Reception) 9:00 am – 2:55 pm

Beech (Years 1 and 2) 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Lime (Years 3 and 4) 8:55 am – 3:05 pm

Maple (Year 5) 8:45 am – 3:15 pm

Willow (Year 6) 8:45 am – 3:15 pm

Positive language

- We will not be referring to catch up, lost learning, closing gaps, lost time etc. Language is powerful and it is very destructive that some are using this kind of language, creating anxiety for all. I attach a document which outlines the language that we will use with staff and pupils to decrease anxiety and develop confidence. As you can see, we will refer to consolidating learning, building upon learning, moving forward etc. Our children have been through enough and we do not want to exacerbate any anxiety that they may feel.

- For the first few weeks of school, children will not be receiving any homework. At this time, the children's wellbeing is our primary concern. We are acutely aware that the past few months will have impacted each of the children in our school in a variety of ways.
- Children will be working hard in school each day and for now, that is enough. It is important that we limit the risk of items moving from home to school environments so from the end of September, we will be exploring the possibilities of homework taking the form of online tasks. Children will be encouraged to use TT Rockstars and Spag.com and of course to read each day.

Wear weather appropriate clothes for well-ventilated rooms and the outdoors

- All classrooms will have windows open regularly to ensure rooms are well ventilated. We will need to maximise the use of our outdoor facilities, so it is important your child wears clothes appropriate for the weather. Remember for the first half term children need to come to school in sports clothes and suitable trainers. Please remember to write your child's name somewhere on the inside of their coats, hoodies, jackets etc. Any unnamed clothing will be brought out and left near the gate each morning.

What they need to bring

- Named water bottle, reading book, pencil case (if they wish in Key Stage 2) raincoat and NO heavy bags as these will be on the back of their chairs!

Break times and Lunch times

- We will continue our staggered break times introduced last year (to increase playground space available to each class). Children will play with children in their class grouping, e.g. Year 5 pupils may play together but will be separated from pupils in Year 6.
- Children will be having lunch in their classrooms and we are offering a reduced school dinner menu (this can be found under school meals in the parents tab on the website).

I know that this may still be a time of uncertainty and apprehension for many of you. We will do all we can to support our children, and with your support, we will manage this together and no doubt your child will settle back very quickly. If you have specific concerns, please don't hesitate to email us.

Once again we want to say a huge thank you to everyone for their kind cards and gifts to staff across the school. The kind words and messages were so personal and meaningful and really touched our hearts. Enjoy the remainder of the summer holidays and if you have a moment the Farmer's Market is taking place in the school playground on the 29th of August- let's hope the sun shines for them.

With every best wish as always,

Yours sincerely

Sinead Connolly

