



Huntington Community Primary School Newsletter

October 23rd, 2020

Diary Dates

November

2nd INSET (pupils not in)
 3rd School re-opens
 4th Flu vaccinations
 9/11th Y6 WW2 visits
 11th Remembrance Day
 13th Children in Need
 14th Divali
 16th Anti-Bullying week
 25th No Pens Day
 30th Y6 Bikeability starts

December

19th Christmas break

January

4th INSET (pupils not in)
 5th School re-opens
 20th School photos

February

8-12th Y3 residential
 9th Safer Internet Day
 12th Chinese New Year
 13th Half-term break
 22nd School re-opens

March

2nd Keystings Music
 4th World Book Day
 19th Comic Relief

April

1st INSET (pupils not in)
 2nd Good Friday
 3rd Spring break
 12th Ramadan starts
 19th School re-opens

May

3rd Bank Holiday
 10th Y6 SATs week
 19th-21st Y4 residential
 24th Young Voices
 29th Half-term break

June

7th School re-opens
 Y1 phonics week
 9th Class photos
 14-18th Y6 residential
 15th Y5 Maya expert

July

21st INSET (pupils not in)
 22nd Summer break

A half term like no other

Following the most unusual half term of school life that anyone can recall, inevitably we must begin with Covid-19 and the school community's response. On this front, however, we are in the fortunate position of benefiting from exceptional parental support in terms of adhering to the many measures implemented, and for that I would like to say a big thank you to you all. The path ahead will no doubt be full of bumps and turns, but if we all continue to follow guidance both inside and outside school then hopefully we can minimise the impact of the virus on our community.

In this respect, a few points to bear in mind please:

- Children waiting in the socially-distanced queue lines need to stay with the adult looking after them, and especially not run in and around the queuing area, thereby having close contact with the adults of other families.
- It is not advisable that children wear face coverings in school. Although it is understandable why some may wish to, with the adults around them modelling safe behaviour, we contacted CWAC Health directly on this matter, and for a variety of reasons this is best avoided.
- Staff are being flexible about this, but please try and avoid conversations (certainly lengthy ones) with them at the doorway, for both social-distancing reasons and the convenience of other parents/carers waiting in the queue. Urgent messages can be relayed via the office, class email addresses are available for other contact (with a 36-hour expectation as to response time, given staff have no time during the school day to reply).

The year ahead

While we all hope that restrictions can be eased at some point during the coming year, and more whole- and inter-school events can then take place, at the moment these are necessarily restricted. However, where possible we will plan for and facilitate normal school activities, or close approximations: for example, soon after the half-term break we will be holding virtual parents evenings, Year 6 classes will be visiting Stockport Air Raid shelters and *Bikeability* training will be taking place. Children in the early years will still be able to take part in Christmas productions, but these will have to be attended 'virtually' (i.e. shows filmed and distributed online).

Junior residential visits have also been booked for the year to come: Y3 to Burwardsley in February, Y4 to Lakeside in May and Y6 to the Conway Centre for a full week in June. We are exploring options for an alternative Year 5 visit, since the expense of attending the Conway Centre for a full week in both Y5 and Y6, as has previously been the practice, is now felt to be prohibitively expensive for parents/carers. All of these residential visits are, however, prohibited under current DfE guidance – we hope this will change as the year goes on.

Remembrance 2020

Children from Y6 Sycamore have filmed a reading to form part of CWAC's virtual Remembrance service this year – we will also be taking part in the Huntington commemoration during the weekend after the break.



Children in Need

This popular fundraiser takes place at the end of the second week back after the break (November 13th). Wild and wacky costumes are certainly allowed and encouraged, to show support for the cause: if you are able, please make an online donation direct to Children in Need on the day.



Anti-Bullying Week

The theme for this year's national Anti-Bullying Week (November 16-20th) is *United Against Bullying*: the week will start with an Odd Socks Day on November 16th. The Anti-Bullying Alliance, which promotes the week, has published this year's manifesto as follows.



This year, more than ever, we've witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge.

Anti-Bullying Week is no different. Bullying has a long lasting effect on those who experience and witness it. But by channelling our collective power, through shared efforts and shared ambitions, we can reduce bullying together. From parents and carers, to teachers and politicians, to children and young people, we all have a part to play in coming together to make a difference.

We're all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we're united against bullying.

Our Anti-Bullying Code, devised by the School Council, is shown at right, and will be revisited via activities during the week. The school's Anti-Bullying Policy, of which the code is a part, is available on the website (*Information, Policies* section). Communication is key – please do get in touch at an early stage if you feel your child is having difficulties with fellow pupils that go beyond the occasional fallout.

A Bully-Free School is a Happy School!



Our Anti-Bullying Code



It's every child's right to be happy at Huntington

What to do if you feel you are being bullied

- ✓ Tell an adult you trust or
- ✓ Tell a sensible friend who will take you to a trusted adult for help

What NOT to do if you feel you are being bullied

- (or if you see somebody being bullied)
- * DON'T try to deal with it yourself.
- * DON'T keep it a secret.
- * DON'T just stand there – tell a trusted adult!

Bubbles and childcare

We have contacted CWAC Health directly to get some clarity on the issue of bubbles – specifically in connection with childcare and pick-up/drop-off, for your understanding of what is and isn't allowed outside school. The Tier 2 restrictions in Cheshire West at present do not actually affect what can and cannot be done as regards bubbles, and please note that the bubbles described below are nothing to do with the year group bubbles we have in school – outside school (and therefore for pick-up/drop-off also) only the situations described below apply.

Each household can potentially have two bubble arrangements, as follows:

Support Bubble

Your household can form a support bubble with another household, as long as that second household **only contains one adult** – it is permitted to have children (under 18) within it, so it could be a single-parent family, a single grandparent or friend etc, but no other adults are allowed (partners, lodgers etc).

Within your support bubble you are allowed to mix freely indoors and outdoors, without any need for social distancing, since you are effectively forming one household.

Childcare Bubble

Your household may **also** 'bubble' with one other household for the purpose of informal childcare (which would include pick-up/drop-off). Your children are allowed to mix freely with everyone inside the household providing childcare, as their children are in your household, but **the adults are not allowed to mix** – so children need to be handed over at the door (no coffee and a chat inside for the grown-ups).

Very importantly, these bubbles have to be **consistent** – you may choose to create a Support Bubble and a Childcare Bubble, but once chosen **you cannot change them**.

Separated Families

Children of parents who no longer live together can still see either parent without restriction, and both parents may form a Support Bubble and a Childcare Bubble, separately from each other.

SPORT

Sadly, true inter-school sport is not possible at the moment – particularly frustrating when we have such outstanding sporting potential at present. However, PE co-ordinator Miss Carpenter has been maintaining contact with the Chester School Sports Partnership and has implemented some virtual competitions they have organised (e.g. Tag Rugby challenges, as pictured at right and seen on Twitter).



Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Vehicle Access and Pedestrian Safety

Use of the Staff Car Park

We are reviewing the small number of car parking permissions currently granted to parents for use of the staff car park (on the basis of either mobility or exceptional pupil need), and will be contacting those with such permission over the half-term break. After the break, parental parking here will require the display of a permit, issued by the school – please contact the Headteacher (via the head@ address) if you believe you may be entitled to request a permit.

Crossing the road

Following reports from parents of some unsafe behaviour from children travelling to/from school on their own, the Headteacher spoke to upper junior classes to advise regarding safe journeys to school, on the following points in particular:

- Use the pedestrian crossings as intended – follow the lights, dismount bicycles to cross.
- Do not cross from one pavement to the other at the school's main gate.

Flu Vaccinations

All pupils (except Nursery children) are able to access flu vaccinations in school on November 4th – many thanks to everyone who has already returned the permission form, which is strongly encouraged. A letter about potential minor side effects to look out for, in particular a mild fever, has been provided by NHS England this week and is available online – please read it by clicking [HERE](#).

Best wishes for a safe and relaxing half-term

Mr Rose