

THE HAMLET HERALD



'Outstanding learning, within a glittering curriculum, where everyone matters'

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HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE

No-one can fail to have missed the news coverage across the world and particularly in this country, from London, to Bristol to Oxford, of people responding to the Black Lives Matter movement.

As a school, we fully endorse taking a strong anti-racist approach in our curriculum design, from dealing with contemporary social issues that those from a minority background face, to exploring our more recent colonial history at an age appropriate level.

We will continue to offer a curriculum filled with diverse cultural influences. Our intention now, is to review and improve upon all aspects of our educational coverage and resources. Our aim is to ensure that each and every one of us supports the goal of creating an equal and fair society for all.

This week, I prepared a whole school assembly for the children, delivering some key messages and the opportunity to reflect. It was posted on the Google Classroom streams late Wednesday afternoon. I do hope the children have now had the opportunity to see this. Within the assembly, I asked the children to engage in a few activities/think pieces so that they are well-informed, can ask questions, have discussions, get involved in debate, and be in a position to form their own ideas and opinions. We are not expecting any work submitted following this, although the children are more than welcome to share any responses via their streams. I hope this sparks some interesting conversations within your family groups.

GENERAL REMINDERS

We have reminded our in-school children of the need to be on time in the mornings. We know it is different with our staggered start and departure times, but to ensure minimal bubble crossings, we ask that you support your child to arrive at their correct time, and collect promptly at the end of the day:

6B 8:30am – 3:00pm

6SP 8:45am – 3:15pm

Key Worker School from 8:45, and no later than 8:55am – 3:25pm

6GR 9:00am – 3:30pm

We have also reminded the children about uniform. They should be wearing a school top (hoodie/sweatshirt/polo/t-shirt) together with comfy plain bottoms suitable for P.E (joggers/shorts/leggings) and trainers, which are washed each day.

SCHOOL RE-OPENING: WHAT WE KNOW/DON'T KNOW...

Following further announcements this week, we now know that the government no longer expects primary schools to bring back all year groups before the end of the summer term. Schools have been told that if they have the capacity, they can open to more year groups than nursery, reception, Y1 and Y6 pupils. At this point, we do not know what will be expected of us for the start of the autumn term 2020 and what this will look like. We know that we will not be expected to maintain Key Worker School provision over the summer break. We have heard that there are plans in the pipeline for some kind of summer catch-up for all pupils. We have not been provided with any plans or guidance from the government, yet...

What does this all mean for DHJS? While we are instructed to operate with no more than 15 children in a bubble, and not on a rota system; unfortunately, the Hamlet does not have the capacity to open more widely. We are currently operating on a complex nine bubble system, soon to become ten, utilising all staff members and room spaces to the maximum. We are now catering for a majority Y6 cohort, and continue to provide places for known Key Worker children to date, and those that have been identified as vulnerable.

This is not what any of us want, and we miss those Hamleteers who are having to remain at home. As such, we are delighted that 3H trialled our first 'live' Google Classroom session this week, bringing together all of the class. It was a huge success! We are now going to roll these live sessions out for all classes, so that we can ensure some class cohesion as we move towards the end of the academic year. We are also thinking of other creative ways how we can bring our classes together before the end of term.

While we await further government guidance, the Core Leadership Team will be planning for various scenarios for the new academic year. We will of course keep you updated as we learn more, and have information to communicate. We appreciate how frustrating this is for you all. We want to assure you that we are not withholding any information, we hear from the government at the same time as you.